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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2014

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Bridgend Youth Theatre says: 'Let us entertain you!'



The Bridgend Youth Theatre has put together a large cast to perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Phantom of the Opera' – and these are just the girls! The young cast are offering a full-scale Gothic musical melodrama, which promises to be a real spectacular. The show is on twice daily (matinee and evening) in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, tomorrow, Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1. PHOTOGRAPH by MANDY THOMAS (www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk).

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Man is jailed for life after Tondu love rival murder

Victim stabbed in front of children

Report by AJ
SICLUNA

CONSUMED by
jealousy when his
partner became
involved in another
relationship, a man
murdered his love
rival by stabbing
him in the neck,
Cardiff Crown
Court heard.

The victim, 50-year-
old Kevin Hier, suffered
a 15cm long, deep
incised wound, which
penetrated his thyroid
gland, gullet and the
apex of his chest.

He had a collapsed
left lung and there were
a number of other superfi-
cial wounds, said pro-
secutor Greg Taylor QC.

The attack, which
took place in a lane in
Tondu, was witnessed by
three children.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 11)

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Ogmore MP backs Cold Homes Week



Huw with Cold Homes Week scarf.

HUW IRRANT-DAVIES, MP FOR Ogmore last week wore his 'Cold Homes Week' scarf – in support of the campaign which calls on the Government to take decisive action to tackle fuel poverty and allow people access to affordable heating for their home.

With current headlines highlighting the plight of many due to inclement weather conditions he was keen to stress the importance of this Energy

Efficiency initiative. "More than four times the number of people die as a result of living in cold homes in the UK than the number who die on British roads; and the cost of illnesses caused by cold homes to the NHS is around one billion pounds each year," he said.

"The aim of the Cold Homes Week 'Energy Bill Revolution' is to persuade the Government to use the money it gets from carbon taxes to ensure warm homes, reducing fuel bills while cutting carbon emissions at the same time."

Candidate's 'consultation' call to council

PLAID CYMRU'S prospective parliamentary candidate for Ogmore, Tim Thomas, has called for Bridgend Council to immediately launch a full public consultation on the future of Bridgend County following proposals from the recently published Williams Commission to merge the council with neighbouring Neath Port Talbot and possibly Swansea.

He said: "My immediate thoughts are that given some failures from Welsh local au-

thorities, change is all but inevitable.

"However, I am concerned over the prospect of around 15,000 jobs being lost nationally and I will do everything I can to call for this to be limited by implementing a jobs strategy where those at risk could be redeployed or retrained."

"In addition, I believe we need to change the way we elect councillors by adopting the more accountable single transferable vote system."

Local self harm discussion group

A NEW self harm self help group is starting every fourth Monday of the month from 5.30pm – 6.30pm in ARC Day Services in Quarella Road in Bridgend, starting Monday, March 24.

A spokeswoman said: "In a friendly, relaxed environment, the group will provide a safe, confidential and supportive space to meet others who understand the issues faced by a person who self-harms."

Led by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations and managed by Mental Health Matters Wales as part of the Big Lottery-funded Community Voice: NEEDS MUST/Pan to Angen programme, the group is open to anyone 16 and over who has self-harmed or has any involvement with self-harm.

For further information or to discuss any self-harming issues further, contact Karen Powell on 01656 767045, or email karen.powell@mhmwales.org

'Recess is not a time for relaxation in my busy MP's schedule'

ARE you enjoying your holiday? This is a common question asked of MPs when the Commons is in recess, but recess is always busy as it is time to catch up and to reconnect with what is happening locally.

This last week has been no different and I thought I could write about just two days of this week.

I chose Thursday and Friday, hectic days full of different things to do and enjoy. I started Thursday morning by reading to a group of four-year-olds, their parents and grandparents in Oldcastle school.

The story was about a Mr Gumpy and a ride in his car with children and lots of animals.

I sat on a chair while the children sat on a rug at my feet and together we read the story.

It was great fun, making up voices for the characters and then allocating roles to the children. It took me back to reading with my son who will be 30 this year.

After the reading, the children and their parents/grandparents were colouring in cars, cutting out wheels and having a great time talking about the task in hand.

I got to talk to everyone and see the colourful imaginative cars being put together. Once this was over, I was given a tour of the school and talked to some of the older pupils and their teachers.

I especially enjoyed talking to an IT class that was exploring the history of the Victoria Cross, about the number of Welsh soldiers who won the medal at Rorke's Drift in South Africa.

That's the sort of special morning you can have as an MP, arriving at 9.30am and leaving by 12pm.

Back to the office to look at the impact of the new street layout in Nolton Street...the rain has slowed down

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for The GEM readers.



progress and many shopkeepers have had a few months of dirt and noise to contend with. It looks as though it is finally taking shape and will make the narrow pavements safer to negotiate for all of the students heading for Brynateg and Bridgend College, as well as local residents heading home.

Emails come in at a rapid rate and trying to keep on top of them is a nightmare. Just deleting the emails going into the spam and junk folders can take an hour each day.

Having typed those words, I realised I had not cleared the junk folder today and wading through the offers to lease me a car, sell me cupboards and a claim to be the rightful heir to the throne of England (yes indeed, England) I found one email which popped back into the inbox.

The sender of this email made the classic mistake of not including a clear message in the subject box – an almost certain way to end up in the junk folder.

Having cleared some of the junk, it was time to head off to the Pernicious Anaemia Society, which is based here in Bridgend and lobbies Westminster and all of the devolved administrations on behalf of people with the condition.

They can be found at www.pernicious-anaemia-society.org/. This was a regular visit having been sent a paper that had been published recently on the condition.

I left with parliamentary questions to ask and a plan for a possible Westminster hall debate

in the spring.

The rest of the day was devoted to answering emails and arranging and planning for Friday's diary events, which again started with going through the emails and incoming office mail.

When I was first elected, the daily postal delivery brought a large amount of letters from constituents. Today a handwritten letter is a rarity. During the visit to Oldcastle school, I was able to see the huge investment in ICT in every classroom and talked about whether handwriting would become a lost art. I don't think it will.

As the cyber risks of hacking increase, I believe people will return to the joys of handwritten records and communications for anything they wish to keep private.

It will be interesting to see how long the change

takes, as we currently enjoy the new toys, tablets and smart phones.

Friday saw me back in a school, this time Porthcawl Comprehensive, with pupils taking my International Women's Day quiz.

The quiz tests assumptions, not knowledge, about the status of women in the world. There is always surprise that men still make up 80 per cent of the members of the two Houses, the Commons and the Lords – despite the increase in women parliamentarians.

On then to Culverhouse Cross, to film an interview for the BBC; it never ceases to amaze me how many takes and questions you face for perhaps a few seconds on the evening news. The subject was bullying in the armed forces, an area I have been exploring for some time.

The filming took longer than planned so I was a little late heading back to Porthcawl for my Friday surgery, with a number of people to meet and all with very different issues to discuss.

The final task of the day is to write this article and tomorrow's to-do list and, of course, yet more emails to look at.

Quiz League round-up

ON February 17 in Division 1, the Llangewydd Arms had their customary win – this time the victims were Tondur Railway Club, who went down by 53 points to 44.

Swan Nomads, despite being short of one regular player, still brought off a good win away to Crown Inn 'A' by 49-41 and there was victory for Mackworth Arms against Laleston Inn 'A' by 49-42.

In Division 2, there were two matches which ended with the same score, 53-39 away wins – Pheasant Poachers winning at Coychurch Wanderers and Crown Inn 'B' successfully at Pyle RFC.

The other two games resulted in Pheasant Gamekeepers having a 49-45 win against Oldcastle 'B' and Cabo Roche having to stay in third place in spite of their 47-39 defeat of Bush Kangaroos because two of the teams

higher up also won.

It's teaser-time. Here are your four specials:

1 Which word for a person who is made to take the blame for the failings or misdeeds of another comes from a Jewish ritual performed in Biblical times on the Day of Atonement?

2 Which chemical element has the symbol Ir and the atomic number 77. It is the most corrosive resistant element known?

3 Which world heavyweight boxing champion from the late 40s to early 50s had the nickname 'The Cincinnati Cobra'?

4 In which Verdi opera does the title character arrange the murder of his daughter's abductor – only for the daughter to be killed herself?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1 Rigoleto.
2 Iridium.
3 Ezzard Charles.
4 Rigoletto.

NO NEED TO BE LONELY AT THE U3A!

FEBRUARY proved to be another most successful month of activities and enjoyment for members of Porthcawl U3A who braved the inclement weather.

Despite experiencing the worst weather for many years, this vibrant organisation continued to function on 'all cylinders'. Our interest groups met as usual and our photography group made the most of the wave action at the lighthouse, as they were joined by hundreds of visitors with their wide angle cameras.

The highlights of this month were an excellent illustrated talk by U3A member Alan Jones, an authority on Dylan Thomas, at the Hi-Tide.

In a jovial manner, Alan took us through the Welsh poet's life and works and also showed dramatic progress as he recited some of Dylan's

works, which was very much enjoyed by the large number who attended.

This was followed up later in the month by an excellent field trip to Nantgarw China Works and the National Museum of Wales for a special Dylan Thomas exhibition.

Our annual general meeting will be held on March 12, also at the Hi-Tide when the Lord Lieutenant of the County, will address us.

Membership of U3A is open all through the year. Anyone interested in joining, can ring 01656 783663 for further information.

You can be sure of a warm welcome and a friendly atmosphere. No-one need be lonely when a U3A is near at hand and those interested in adult learning will also find plenty to stimulate them, such is the depth and diversity of Porthcawl U3A.

CLIVE MORT

Call for cat owners to act on 'Spay Day'

THIS 'World Spay Day', the RSPCA is urging pet owners to protect their cats from having unplanned litters of kittens.

Recent research carried out revealed that 85 per cent of litters are a mistake. This is mainly because people don't realise that cats can get pregnant from as young as four months, while they are still kittens themselves.

There is a romanticised myth that cats should be allowed to have at least one litter of kittens, but cats aren't like people and don't choose to get pregnant like we do.

Our research showed pet owners found the re-

ality of having these kittens is not what they imagined, and the overwhelming response at that point from cat owners was 'never again!'

Allowing your cat to be spayed or snipped also saves your cat from health risks. Tom cats who haven't been snipped are more likely to wander off and get into fights which can lead to them getting FIV and other diseases.

You may be able to get help with the cost of spaying or snipping your cat. Please visit

www.rspca.org.uk/cat-care for more information.

Justine Pannett, RSPCA Senior Campaigns Manager.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 6)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
27 Thur	04.22	9.1	16.53	9.3
28 Fri	05.23	9.8	17.51	9.9
01 Sat	06.06	10.4	18.37	10.3
02 Sun	06.58	10.7	19.21	10.6
03 Mon	07.41	10.7	20.01	10.4
04 Tues	08.22	10.5	20.41	10.2
05 Wed	08.59	10.0	21.17	9.7
06 Thur	09.39	9.4	21.54	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Thief caught after leaving bloodstains

BLOODSTAINS left in a Bridgend pharmacy after it was raided, led to the arrest of the intruder, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jonathan Merchant, 30, of Chestnut Way, Bridgend, got in by smashing two plate-glass doors before wrecking a till and taking just £1.50, said prosecutor Leah Pollard.

Merchant had admitted a charge of burglary before Bridgend Magistrates and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was jailed for a year, the sentence suspended for 18 months, and made subject to a supervision order for 18 months. He was also ordered to observe a six-month electronically tagged curfew from 8pm to 8am.

Said Recorder Nigel Thomas: "I note you have a shocking record. You have caused society and the courts much trouble over the years."

It was, he said, quite unacceptable to kick in the doors of the shop.

Miss Pollard said that, on December 13, the police received a report that Lloyds Pharmacy, Bridgend, had been broken into. They arrived

to find the alarm sounding.

Two glass doors had been smashed and an upended till on the floor, was damaged.

Bloodstains belonging to Merchant were found on the till and led to his arrest three days later.

He accepted he was responsible and said that, at the time, he was heavily under the influence of valium and could not recollect much of the incident.

He admitted kicking his way in and when he heard the alarm, fled.

He was said to have convictions for 63 offences – including 33 for theft, 12 for burglary and one for robbery.

His counsel, Alex Greenwood, said Merchant was registered as disabled and had an attention deficit disorder, as well as being hyperactive, drinking to excess, and taking Valium. He also smoked cannabis.

His gain from the crime was absolutely minimal, and he took no drugs from the premises. Custody would mean he could not address his problems.

He said his last burglary was two-and-a-half years ago.

Porthcawl cannabis farm discovered

CANNABIS plants with a potential yield of £23,000, were found in a property at Porthcawl.

Because of mounting debts, a British Gas employee visited the premises in Victoria Avenue and discovered a cannabis farm, said prosecutor David

Lloyd.

Andrew Weeks, 45, unemployed, of Tremorfa, Cardiff admitted producing cannabis.

He was jailed for two years, the sentence suspended for 18 months, subject to a supervision order for a year and ordered to carry out 280 hours unpaid work.

Mr Lloyd said Weeks

was carrying out work at the premises and resided there for three months.

Because of the gas bill of £6,000, a British Gas official went to the house and found a cannabis farm.

There were 58 plants in various stages of growth. The electricity system had been bypassed, there was special ducting, high powered bulbs and growth accelerant.

"It was quite a planned operation," said Mr Lloyd.

When arrested, Weeks claimed that he was only the gardener.

His counsel, Christopher Rees, said he had been fully co-operative, had had difficulties in the past, and suffered from depression.

Recorder Jonathan Ferris said: "The plants were found in a house under your control. You played a significant role."

TWO county schools recently mounted the podium in a regional Formula One competition.

Pencoed and Maesteg comprehensives both received accolades in the south Wales regional finals of the F1 in Schools competition at the Waterfront Museum, Swansea, where they were pitting their wits against teams from across south Wales for a place in the final.

The competition challenges secondary school students to create their own Formula One team to design, construct and race a miniature Formula One car from a block of balsa wood, which is powered by a compressed air cylinder.

Although neither team's vehicle vroomed to overall victory, Maesteg Comprehensive's 'MCS Velocity' picked up the award for best team identity, while the 'Typhoon' from Pencoed Comprehensive received the best team sponsorship and marketing award.

Pencoed Comprehensive's pupils particularly impressed the judges with the promotional work they did in partnership with Nathaniel Cars.

The pupils promoted their compressed air-powered F1 car alongside the new low CO₂ emission Mitsubishi Mirage, which the dealership was introducing to its range of cars.

The team used finances raised through its partnership with Nathaniel Cars, as well as a cash injection

Allotment plot now available in Brackla

BRIDGEND County Allotment Association has an allotment plot available in Chorleywood Close, Brackla, Bridgend, for a community or disability group.

"It's a nice plot with good level access from the car park on a very pleasant allotment site. Unfortunately, there are no loos available, but there is help available (digging etc) for any group who may be interested," said Lynda Williams, the allotment secretary. Telephone 01656 735988 for more information.

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Velocity and Typhoon on F1 podium!



ABOVE: Pencoed Comprehensive's Daniel Morris, Rhys Jones, Callum Johnson, Jasmine Greene and Olivia Shellard won an award with 'Typhoon'.

from Tata Steel and free materials from Halfords in Bridgend, to fuel the construction of their car, and to design and create display boards and branded team shirts for race day.

Headteacher David George said: "Pencoed Comprehensive School is very pleased to have been involved with the F1 for Schools Project.

"It has given our pupils an invaluable experience into the world of design and engineering and will inspire them as they think of their future careers and aspirations.

"To win the award for sponsorship and marketing was a great achievement and will spur the school to look for even more success next year!

"Many thanks to those at Nathaniel Car Sales, Tata Steel and Halfords

who assisted our pupils with their work and provided fantastic support and expertise.

"Thank you also to Mr Webber for leading the team to success. Well done to all!"

The secondary schools aren't the first teams from Bridgend county borough to have earned their racing stripes, as Mynydd Cynffig Juniors' 'Rapid Racers' team left the opposition in their dust in the 'F1 in Primary Schools – South Wales Jaguar Primary School Challenge 2013' competition last April.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "The F1 in Schools initiative is great because it gives young people an insight into the wide array of skills required to be successful in both motor

racing and business in these areas recognised.

"There is a diverse and comprehensive support team behind any racing champion's success, and I'm delighted that both Pencoed and Maesteg comprehensive teams

have had their strengths in these areas recognised.

"If these pupils decide to pursue a career in motorsport, I'm sure it's only a matter of time until the likes of Lewis Hamilton come calling for their expertise."

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- **Industrial illness** including asbestos exposure, crystalline silica exposure, mesothelioma, lung cancer, respiratory disease and deafness.

Katie will be at **Brackla Community Centre, 1 Whitethorn Dr, Bridgend CF31 2PQ** on the date listed below.

Wed 05 Mar 10am - 4.30pm

No appointment is necessary, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits. Contact:

Katie McCraith

T: 0800 0938240

E: katie.mccraith@hughjames.com

W: www.hughjames.com/bridgend

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NATIONAL AWARD SUCCESS FOR ABMU HEALTH BOARD



ABMU staff with their awards.

TWO ABMU Health Board teams are celebrating receiving recognitions at the Wales Quality Centre's annual awards.

ABMU's finance team won the centre's top prize. The Wales Quality Award recognises Welsh organisations with excellent business principles.

Assessors spent several days with the team, looking at their work across a number of areas including strategy, partnership and processes, and products.

Eifion Williams, director of finance, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the recognition our finance department has received from the Wales Quality Centre with this award. We have focused ourselves on improving our services over a number of years

and are embedding a quality based approach in everything we set out to deliver."

David Phillips, chief executive of the Wales Quality Centre, commented: "ABMU's finance team has successfully used the business excellence model to benchmark and improve their business year on year and this year claimed the overall prize. Their entry was outstanding."

Also recognised at the event was ABMU's renal team, whose nocturnal dialysis programme was highly commended for the Wales Innovation Award.

Dr Ashraf Mikhail, consultant physician, commented: "It is great that the joint effort by finance and clinical teams in ABMU has been recognised at a national awards event."

The care home residents meet creepy critters!



THE residents of a Maesteg-based care home were treated to a special visit from ZooLab, who brought along several creepy companions.

Residents at Bryn Celyn Care Home, in Maesteg Park, spent the afternoon getting up close and personal with a variety of critters, including a stick insect, snake, millipede, African snail, and a rat.

The stick insect and rat seemed to be big hits, with everyone wanting their turn to hold them.

Activities coordinator, Mark Chandler said: "It was such a different activity for our residents to be involved with. I

didn't much like the hissing cockroach but the residents loved it. It was a great opportunity to see creatures you wouldn't normally be familiar with."

Bryn Celyn care home is part of Hallmark Care Homes, the leading specialist care provider established in 1997 with 17 care homes across England and Wales. Hallmark Care Homes registered nurses and trained carers are highly qualified and take pride in delivering award-winning standards of care. Bryn Celyn specialises in general residential, general nursing and young physically disabled care.

For further information please visit www.hallmarkcare-homes.co.uk

Ann's 'Great Pancake Party' in memory of her husband Ray

A COITY woman whose husband died of cardiomyopathy, aged just 30, is staging a Great Pancake Party to help in the fight against the condition.

Ann Power, from Channel View, Cwmberri, will be joining the Cardiomyopathy Association's (CMA) first ever national fundraising campaign to help families affected by the disease.

The Great Pancake Party is encouraging families up and down the country to stage a pancake party in their homes, offices or community buildings and raise money towards more cardiomyopathy education for doctors and nurses.

Ann, a cardiac nurse, recalled how husband

Ray, a design engineer for Sony, suffered a sudden and unexpected cardiac arrest at work in 1997.

She said: "There was no indication that anything was wrong at all. He was incredibly healthy; he played rugby and squash, ran every day and never smoked. He showed no symptoms, no palpitations and no dizzy spells, either."

Tragically Ray died before reaching hospital. His post-mortem stated he had an undiagnosed hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, where the heart muscle becomes thickened and is unable to pump blood around the body effectively.

Immediately, Ann and Ray's son Elis, aged three at the time, was tested to see if he too had the condition.

While Elis is believed to carry the gene, he

continues to be tested for cardiomyopathy every six months. He is currently into the second year of studying a degree in psychology and criminology at the University of South Wales.

Despite Ann's work as a cardiac nurse, she said she had only ever treated one patient with cardiomyopathy before Ray's death.

Ann, 49, added: "Since my husband's death, the CMA has been a really valuable asset with support and information. The CMA don't get any Government funding, so I wanted to do my bit for the charity and raise some funds. I donate to them whenever I can."

Ann's party takes place on March 2 at her home, to which a large gathering of friends and colleagues will be invited. She even plans to use heart-shaped pans to cook her pancakes!

The Cardiomyopathy Association has also launched a Great Pancake Party website, which gives ideas about holding a party and is full of recipes and up-to-date news about other pancake parties being held. See www.great-pancakeparty.co.uk.

For more information about cardiomyopathy see the Cardiomyopathy Association's website www.cardiomyopathy.org or g, email info@cardiomyopathy.org or call the charity on freephone 0800 0181 024.

Who wants to build what and where?

3M (UK) Plc - 3M storey annexe extension to rear.

Mr Bryn Richards - 4 Heol y Bardd, Bridgend - Proposed single storey extension.

Mr Marcus Thomson - Grass verge at Kingsway, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Retain existing mobile barber shop (relaxation of condition 2 of consent P/06/754/FUL).

Mrs C Woodhatch - Castell House, Maesteg - Replacement dwelling and inclusion of land to accommodate garage.

Tesco Stores Ltd - One Stop Stores, Heol Fach, North Cornelly - Five new aluminium shop fronts and sub-divide unit into two separate retail units.

Mr Nesbit - 64 South Road, Porthcawl - Proposed alterations to an existing drive access and construction of new front boundary wall.

Mr and Mrs David Goodwin - 25 Mayfield Avenue, Laleston - Single storey rear extension.

Mrs Wendy Jones - Gadlys Villa, Maesteg Road, Maesteg - Two

Man finds link to founder of Welsh building society

WHEN a retired school inspector from Porthcawl started digging into his family history, he had no idea that he'd find he was related to a founding president of one of the biggest business brands in Wales.

Peter Jones, who is married to Pam and has two children and two grandchildren, had always assumed that his family was from Neath. However, after delving into his family tree he soon learned that his great-grandfather, William Ambrose Jones, was the nephew of Ambrose James Gage - and that he could actually trace his family back to Cardiff in the 1700s.

While researching Ambrose Gage, Peter uncovered his death certificate and obituary from August 6, 1910 in the Cardiff Times and South Wales Weekly News, and it was in this article that he discovered Mr Gage was one of the people who founded Principality Building Society, Wales' largest building society, in 1860.

After extensive research, Peter found pictures and information about the family of Ambrose Gage but was still unable to find out more about the man himself, so he contacted Principality Building Society in the hope of finding out more.

Peter said: "I had photos of the rest of the family but not of Ambrose, so I decided to contact Principality on the off-chance they might be able to help me fill in a piece of the puzzle."

"I was thrilled when Pat Ashman contacted me to say that not only had they managed to find a record of Ambrose but that they also had a picture."

Pat Ashman, sponsorship and events manager at Principality, looked in the society's archives and was able to trace infor-



ABOVE: Mr and Mrs Jones.

mation about Mr Ambrose.

She said: "For Principality's 150th anniversary celebrations, we went through our archives to create a book marking the occasion. It was in this that we found Ambrose, and from there managed to find a photograph of him."

Peter added: "Ambrose obviously remained a big figure in my great-great-grandmother's life after his death and the fact that my great-grandfather was named William Ambrose Jones is certainly testament to that. I always wondered where his distinctive middle name came from and now I know."

Ambrose James Gage owned three Cardiff carriage works and he died in his works at Station Terrace, at the age of 60, when he suffered a fatal



Ambrose Gage.

heart attack. He was buried in Cathays Cemetery, but none of his sons carried on in the carriage building business in Cardiff.

Quiz League ROUND-UP

FEBRUARY 10's match scores were well up: Llangeydd Arms once again topped the lot, winning 58-44 at Mackworth Arms.

Swan Nomads and Oldcastle 'A' had a high aggregate with Oldcastle 'A', Swan won it 55-45. Tondy Railway Club and Tyrrish Royals scored high too, Tondy eventually won it by 50 points

to 45. In Division 2, Laleston Inn 'B' had a 53-51 victory away to Crown Inn 'B'.

Pheasant Gamekeepers did well to beat a good Cabo Roche side 55-49, Pyle RFC did well to keep Oldcastle 'B' to a six-point margin when losing 52-46 but Bush Kangaroos could only manage 37 at home to Coychurch Wanderers who got 57.

Here are your four testers:-

1) What element is most commonly added to steel to make it stainless steel?

2) Who sang the theme tune to the Bond film Licence to Kill?

3) Which Welsh striker is the only player to score hat-tricks in the FA Premier League, Leagues One, Two and Three, the FA Cup and an international?

4) Which car manufacturer produces the model called the 'Forester'?

A Rudge (for Quiz League).

ANSWERS:
1. Chromium.
2. Rod Taylor.
3. Rob Knight.
4. Subaru.

Sexual health focus of Bridgend event

OVER 200 secondary school and college students attended Bridgend Youth Service's third annual 'Think About Sex' event, which highlights the importance of sexual health.

First year drama students from Bridgend College started the event with a performance which discussed a range of sex-related issues - including teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), 'sexting', and 'coming out' as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The young people attending the event then watched a video made by the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre (CEOP) on the risks of sexting, before participating in workshops on STIs, contraception,

drugs, alcohol and homophobia.

A confidential question box was also available for students to ask questions about sensitive issues they didn't feel comfortable discussing in person.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Sex can be a difficult subject to talk about, but it's vital that our young people are aware of the issues and risks associated with it, so it's important that our youth service is educating youngsters on how to stay safe."

"With the rise of smartphones and social media, it has never been so easy for personal media content to fall into the wrong hands or be made public. Hopefully visiting this event will have made the young people think twice about what they send to their partners or friends."

TOP CATERING STAFF RECEIVE HONOURS AT AWARDS NIGHT



Kitchen staff who work at the new Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen won a special recognition award.



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd won the award for secondary school kitchen of the year.



St Roberts Catholic Primary School in Aberkenfig was judged to be the county borough's top school for customer service.

AFTER serving school meals at Llangewydd Junior School for almost 30 years, dinner lady Angela Frederick's dedication has been rewarded with her being named employee of the year in Bridgend County Borough Council's annual catering services business awards.

Angela was one of many staff whose outstanding efforts during the last year were recognised in a ceremony in the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl, and she was presented with her award by Coun Clive James, the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough.

Coun Huw David, BCBC member for children and young people, said: "Angela deserves praise for the excellent leadership skills that she has shown over many years, and in particular during the last 12 months.

"She has always cooked the meals for the pupils at Llangewydd, as well as the meals that are transported to the nearby Trelales Primary School, but last year was also given the task of cooking for additional pupils after Brynteg Junior School merged with Llangewydd.

"Angela accepted the challenge and made it work, with all meals produced from her kitchen. She fully deserves this award.

"Overall, there are around 400 staff working in catering services at the council and these awards showcased the excellent work being done every day."

Delighted with her award, Angela said: "I am so proud of this award as I really enjoy working with the children at Llangewydd Junior School. We are a great team and it is that teamwork which makes our kitchen so special. At Llangewydd, we all work for each other and I would like to thank everyone involved."

Staff at Brackla Primary School were among the others celebrating on the night after they were named primary school kitchen of the year, while Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd won the award for secondary schools, and were presented with their accolade by Coun Mike Gregory, cabinet member for resources.

The county borough's top school for customer service was judged to be St Roberts Catholic Primary School in Aberkenfig, while Abercderin Primary, Pil Primary, Llangynwyd Primary and Brynteg Lower Comprehensive School were all commended in that category.

Kitchen teams were asked to nominate suppliers who they thought worthy of awards too, with 'Total Produce' being named supplier of the year.

Ron Coombes from 'Weekes of Merthyr' picked up the honour for best delivery person, and Dee Hall from 'Holdsworth' took the award for best telesales person. A special recognition award was also presented to the school kitchen staff and 'Meals at Home' staff who all work within the new Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen in Tondur.

Coun David added: "The opening of the new school brought together four kitchen teams who now all work out of one kitchen that provides meals for the school, the meals at home service and the school's community café too.

"The kitchen team now consists of 30 staff who have all worked tremendously hard to ensure that the venture has been a success, and they are worthy winners of a special recognition award."

A raffle was also held on the night which raised £640 for the mayor's chosen charity, the Bridgend and District Stroke Association.



Poignant talk on children's plight at WI

THE new year got off to a good start for Coity WI, with a splendid win for the ladies of the darts team, who won the Glamorgan Federation Darts Championship.

There were 14 teams competing, and so we are proud of our ladies.

The speaker at the February meeting was Angela Lewis, a paediatric nurse practitioner at the Princess of Wales Hospital, who spends some time each year educating nurses at the children's hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

In an illuminating talk, she shared her experiences of the dire conditions under which children have to be cared for.

We heard of the lack of electricity, of running water for hand washing, and the steps she was able to take to improve the chances of survival

for the young patients.

Her modest account of her work belies the immense impact for good she has made, and our members will be following her future visits to Africa with great interest.

Our president has arranged a varied programme for the coming months. We are looking forward to a visit to House of Fraser, Cardiff, for a morning of 'handbags and accessories', a theatre visit to see *Wicked*, and a trip to the National Botanic Gardens and Carmarthen.

The monthly craft classes and coffee mornings continue to be well attended.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20 at Gilead Church Hall, Coity. The topic will be 'How to wear your scarf' with speaker Rosemary Scadden.

Will members and visitors please note that the time of our meetings has been changed to 7pm?

Brackla Primary School were named as primary school kitchen of the year.

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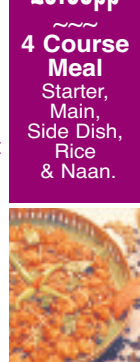
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Renal patients are thrilled with donated iPads from the local Porthcawl kidney support group



ABOVE: Members of the Porthcawl branch of the Kidney Wales Foundation, Jean Schofield, Wendy Richards and Judith French, with patient Elizabeth Edwards and staff from the renal unit.

PATIENTS IN the renal unit at Morriston Hospital are now able to catch up with the news, favourite soaps and surf the net, thanks to the Porthcawl branch of the Kidney Wales Foundation, who raised £2,500 to buy seven iPads for the unit.

Along with the free hospital Wi-Fi, which was launched last month, the iPads will help renal patients stay connected with work, studies, emails, even searching online for Christmas gifts.

Renal patients spend four hours a day three days a week on dialysis machines at the unit and often look for ways to occupy the time.

Pictured is patient Elizabeth Edwards, with the seven donated iPads. Jean Schofield

and Wendy Richards both donated kidneys to their sons.

Judith French (60) is a member of the Porthcawl Branch of Kidney Wales Foundation and helped to raise the donation.

She is also an ex-patient of the renal unit. During 2011 she received a kidney transplant from her ex-husband of 20 years, Stuart Hurst.

She knows more than most that the time spent on dialysis can be long and tiring: "People's lives are just on hold when you have to come to the hospital three times a week for treatment. These days we all want to keep in touch and be connected."

"If you can do a little bit of work or study then surely that helps to take your mind off the treatment and helps time go quicker," she said.

"I'm really pleased to

see the iPads already making a difference to the patients who are on the unit."

Elizabeth Edwards (19) from Brackla was born with chronic kidney disease. She was studying animal management at Pencoed College, but has put her studies on hold for the moment, because of her dialysis treatment.

She said: "This is such an amazing donation idea. For me, keeping in touch is really important. It can be a bit boring on dialysis with nothing to do; you can't really move from the bed. But time will pass much quicker with the iPads I can even catch up with friends."

"If all goes well with my treatment I could be back in college soon."

Elizabeth is being taught to connect herself to the dialysis machine at home before going to bed, and disconnect it the following



Renal self care ward manager Gail Williams and Elizabeth Edwards with new iPad.

morning, this is called nocturnal dialysis.

It will lead to her living a normal life with more energy, eating and drinking what she wants and days free to get on with her life because the dialysis takes place

while she sleeps.

Ward manager Gail Williams said: "I am over the moon with the donated iPads and I can't thank the members enough for their excellent fundraising efforts."

Pencoed murder: Accused says wife's sexual slurs made him 'lose it'

A SELF-EMPLOYED builder who is alleged to have murdered his wife by strangling her with a dog lead has told the jury at Cardiff Crown Court "I didn't try to kill her".

During the incident, said 45-year-old Kelvin Newton, his wife Assia had called him a "mad psycho", had smacked and scrambled him, and made disparaging comments about his sexual prowess, in comparison to a waiter she had become involved with shortly before on a holiday in Tunisia.

When he realised his wife was dead, said Newton, he took more than 40 tablets in an attempt to commit suicide and when that failed, he cut his wrists with a piece of broken beer glass, but that also failed.

Newton, of Heol Las, Pencoed, has denied murdering his wife on July 14 at Tynybryn Terrace.

Prosecutor Elwen Evans described Newton "a violent, volatile man" during his marriage.

She alleged that he used a dog lead as a ligature to strangle his wife.

On Sunday, July 14, last year, Newton said things between them appeared fine and he went to her home to walk their dogs.

He went into the house, he said, and saw her lying on top of her

Report by AJ SICLUNA

bed, playing with her phone. She shortly after told him she had met a waiter called Ahmed on a holiday in Tunisia, and had sex with him and that his penis was bigger than Newton's.

He said she went on to say it was the best sex she had had for 23 years and that she was selling their house and either going to Tunisia to stay with him, or bringing him to Britain to stay with her.

"I asked why all this was coming out now and she said she just wanted out."

"I called her a slag and a slut. She slapped me. I pushed her and she slapped me again".

Newton said she gouged his face and abused him about his mental health.

Earlier, the court had heard that he had been sectioned following the taking of an overdose of drugs.

"She was saying I was mad and a psychopath, and I was a nutter. It was intense, it was at me all the time".

He continued: "I didn't like it. I was private about my mental health and she knew it got to me. It was well over the top and I started to lose it. I wanted to shut her up".

Newton said he was holding the dog lead which he put into her mouth and pulled it to stop her keeping on at

him. He told the jury he pulled it tightly for about a minute with his eyes shut as she struggled.

"She was struggling and she dropped in front of me and I opened my eyes and saw her lying there. There was blood in the room and I panicked."

"There was no movement, no breathing".

He said when he left he threw her mobile phones into a fire, took medication, tried to commit suicide and slashed his wrists, but failed.

He agreed he had "lost his temper and self-control".

Cross examining, Ms Evans asked: "Are you guilty of anything?" and he replied: "Of taking my wife's life".

He said she had done wrong by abusing him about his mental health and by slapping and scrambling him, and talking of her Tunisian association.

"That triggered it" he said, and he went on: "I didn't try to kill her".

She didn't deserve to die, he said, and at the time he still loved her and he believed she still loved him.

They had had sex some time before the incident and he denied using her for that purpose.

The jury were told by him that during the separation he had had the best of both worlds, including sex with her.

He denied he was prepared to say anything to avoid his responsibility for killing her.

The case continues.

Voting in 'eyes and nose' lobby?



Madeleine Moon MP with pupils at West Park.

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, last week met Sixth year pupils at West Park Primary School to congratulate them on their recent Estyn report, and take part in a question and answer session.

Around 50 pupils filled the classroom to take part and the MP reported: "All the pupils were eager to ask questions and there were so many hands in the air it was difficult to know where to start. Their questions were all very good. They were well informed on the current campaign to stop

smoking in cars when carrying children which was given a definite seal of approval.

"There was lots of concern about Mr Gove and his ideas to extend the school day for pupils until 6pm."

"I did impress on them it was only for schools in England, as education was devolved in Wales to the Welsh Government."

"Their questions ranged from - how often did I meet with David Cameron? Did I always want to be an MP? Why did I choose the Labour Party? and what are the three best and three worst things about being an MP?"

"They also asked about my thoughts on the NHS struggling to meet demand and the cuts in the Police and Fire Service."

"I was amused by one question on voting in the 'eye' lobby on the right and voting in the 'no' lobby on the left. The pupils had interpreted this as the 'eyes and nose' lobbies, something I will tell the Speaker about when I get back to the House."

"Their questions were impressive and at the end of the Q&A, I invited them all up to Westminster in a few months time to come and visit me where I work - which was met with many hands in the air and smiling faces."

Local food and drink festival takes year off!

THERE will be no Festival of Food and Drink in Cowbridge next year, after the organisers took the decision to move the event to May - after attendances at the last two festivals were affected by bad weather, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

Bringing the event forward to May 2014 has been ruled out, so organisers are now looking to set a date for a weekend in May 2015.

Last year's festival - which marked the 10th anniversary - suffered because the weather forecast predicted more heavy rain and winds on the Sunday. The 'St Jude Storm' was predicted to arrive with high winds and heavy rain. Ironically, the actual weather on the day was reasonable - the storm hit the Vale on the Monday - but by then visitors had made other plans. At the time, the festival chairman, John Davies, predicted a "small loss".

Speaking last week, Mr Davies said: "We've enjoyed a hugely successful 10 years of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, but we have come to realise that certain conditions are preventing us growing even further and attracting a wider audience."

"In moving the date to May, we hope to attract new sponsorship and

interest in the festival in 2015, and even more support from the local community and town's traders who we rely on to work so closely with us."

He said that the event, which is run by a volunteer committee, costs over £60,000 each year to stage. The loss in 2013, is now being described as "substantial" - and the weather was clearly a major factor.

The costs of the festival include marquees, the free park and ride, logistics and site management, radio and newspaper advertising, insurance, festival entertainment, and proving extra toilet facilities.

These have to be met, in the main, from ticket sales, and the festival committee believes that taking advantage of the Spring climate will attract more visitors - and also more sponsors.

A grant from the Vale Council, given through the early years of the festival, was always intended to be gradually phased out, and this has now come to pass.

Mr Davies concluded: "We see this change as a very positive thing, and a real opportunity to revitalise the festival, drawing even more visitors to Cowbridge and generating higher income and economic growth for the region in the process."

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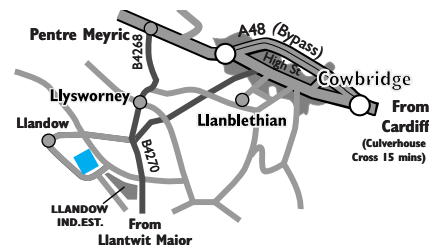
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Puppy almost dies... and all because some people refuse to pick up after their dogs!

A DOG owner has pleaded with local people to pick up after their dogs – after her bichon frise puppy became seriously ill.

Bethan Stuckey said Baxter, the bichon frise puppy who joined her family last August, immediately loved his runs down at Whitmore Bay, Barry. "It soon became Baxter's favourite place to walk. He was able to run around and play, meet other dogs and learn to socialise.

"In the space of recent bad weather it was fantastic to have the beach so close, so we didn't need to go anywhere else for walks."

DOG FAECES

But Bethan said there was one negative side to using the beach.

"The drawback was the large amount of dog faeces left uncleared on the promenade, the beach and the surrounding walkways.

"Puppies like to sniff the most revolting things, and Baxter was no different.

"I often had to pull him away from a pile of excrement, but I didn't worry too much – after all he had been fully vaccinated."

Bethan and her family were in for an unpleasant shock.

"Baxter woke up in the night and vomited. The following day he was tired and listless refused to eat and drink, and started to have very bad diarrhoea.

"I took him to the vet, where they gave him an injection to stop him vomiting along with some med-

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

icine. However, he got worse. His diarrhoea was very watery and he seemed lethargic and totally unlike his usual bouncy self.

"We returned to the vet the next day and he was kept in overnight.

"He was refusing fluids and needed to go on a drip to stop him becoming dehydrated. It was a very frightening and worrying experience for all our family.

"The following day the vet phoned to say they were going to test him for parvovirus.

"I was shocked – he had been vaccinated a few months ago against this potentially life threatening illness."

CONTAGIOUS

Parvovirus is contagious and is spread from dog to dog by direct or indirect contact with faeces. It can be especially severe in puppies.

To Bethan's despair the result came back positive. "Our seven month old puppy, vaccinated, loved and well cared for, could die.

"What followed was several days in quarantine, kept on a drip, away from his family, with the risk of him dying hanging over us.

"The disease is so contagious we couldn't see him in case we carried the infection and passed it on to other dogs. It was a horrible experience.

"Luckily I had taken out pet insurance. The cost of

treatment reached £2,000.

"It was a terrible time, but luckily we had a happy ending. Not everyone does.

"Baxter is home, eating normally and bounding around, back to his usual puppy self."

HEART-FELT PLEA

Bethan issued a heart-felt plea to other dog owners to act responsibly and not to put the health of children or dogs at risk.

"It could easily have been so different. I want to ask dog owners in Barry – the hundreds who benefit from being able to use the beach during the winter months – to please pick up after their dogs.

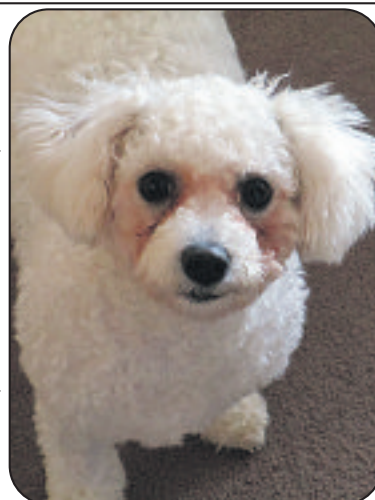
"Despite full and up to date vaccinations, dogs are still vulnerable to parvovirus and other bacterial and viral infections, spread to them by coming into contact with the faeces of other infected dogs."

Bethan said vets had told her that there were many cases currently in south Wales.

"Maybe some people think that it'll be okay if they don't pick up their dog's mess, as other people leave it, and that it doesn't matter – but it does!

"We all love our dogs, they are members of the family, and it would be heartbreaking to lose them.

"Please make sure our local area stays as clean and disease free as possible. Baxter won this time, but I don't want other dogs and owners to face the same ordeal," Bethan pleaded.



Baxter is back to full health and fighting fit, but it could have been so different.

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Wildlife Trust

A MUSICAL evening to raise funds for the Wildlife Trust is being held at Parc Slip visitor centre, Tondur, tomorrow evening (February 28) at 7pm, with music ranging from Bach to Purcell.

There will be solo pieces by local musician Angharad Evans on the harp and piano. She will be joined in duets by Thomas Morgan (harp and organ).

Tickets £3 and can be obtained on the door or in the visitor centre.

Bridgend Carers

THE local centre is a charity set up to provide support and information at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479).

Staff thank officials of the Welsh Rugby Union for offering the charity 20 free tickets for the recent Wales-Italy game. The carers were thrilled to be given this opportunity to see a live International rugby game.

On Friday, February 28, the outreach group will be at the Princess of Wales hospital between 10am-12pm, to offer advice and support to carers who have relatives at the hospital.

On March 3/10/17/24, there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm-2pm, and on March 4, there is a welfare reform day from 10.45am-3.30pm, to make working carers aware of major changes to benefits in the welfare system.

From 5pm-7pm, there is a community voice young adult carer forum. For information, contact Rhian on 07718244087.

The Community Café will be open on March

5 between 12.30pm-3.30pm, for carers to enjoy light refreshments and share concerns with others in the same situation. Steve will be on hand to give gardening advice.

In conjunction with Hafal, Steve will be at the Coity Clinic in the Princess of Wales hospital to offer advice to all people visiting patients in wards 14,15 and 21 from 6pm-8pm.

On March 6, the outreach group will be at Velindre hospital between 10am-12pm, to support carers with relatives at the hospital.

Charity fund

THE next fundraising event, a 'Twmpath', in the Mayor of Maesteg's charity calendar will be on February 28 at 7pm in the Working Men's Club, Temple Street, Maesteg.

All money raised will be shared between Maesteg Day Hospital and Maesteg 3rd Scouts group.

Cost of entry will be £5 plus £2 if you would like chicken and chips! Tickets can be obtained by telephoning 01656 735988.

Saint's day

OGMORE Vale primary school's acting headteacher is asking parents to encourage children to enter competitions, to celebrate St David's day.

Nursery and reception – make an artefact using any media that represents Wales, eg dress a Teddy Bear in a Welsh theme.

Years 1 and 2 – design a Welsh love spoon, or design and make a Welsh book mark.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – design a rugby kit for the Welsh team, or research St David and

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycod1@yahoo.co.uk



present a fact file in any format eg poster, PowerPoint, written, collage – handwritten and illustrate a copy of a Welsh poem about Wales.

All entries are to be received in the school before March 5.

Heronbridge School

THE school recently welcomed football teams from special educational needs (SEN) schools across the region to the South Wales SEN schools football festival, which has been sponsored by Bridgend Rotary Club since 2000.

This year, a new five-a-side competition for 11-16 year olds was added to the tournament on the school's new 3G all-weather pitch, and education and skills minister Huw Lewis, AM kicked off the tournament by blowing the whistle for the new pitch's first ever competitive fixture.

The minister then handed officiating duties over to students from Bridgend College football academy at the Pencod campus completing a sports leaders' course.

Swansea's Pen Y Bryn School shot to the top of the festival's first five-a-side competition, while Heronbridge School took third place.

Success in the traditional 11-a-side competition for pupils aged 16-19 was shared by schools from across south Wales, as Aberdare's Maes Gwyn completed a hat-trick of consecutive wins in the tournament, while Headlands School from Penarth were the most improved team and Neath's Ysgol Hendre won the fair play award.

The home side representing Hereonsbridge School claimed a win, draw and loss from their three fixtures.

Choir concert
OGMORE Vale male voice choir is busy rehearsing a new repertoire for its St David's day concert.

The audience will be provided with a bowl of cawl, Welsh cakes and bara brith inclusive in the cost of entry.

The concert will also be a thank you to the choir's lady supporters. Choristers will help prepare the food and act as waiters on the tables.

The choir rehearses in its Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmores Vale on Thursday evenings and welcomes visitors and new members. For further information telephone John on 01656 841429.

St David's Day
THERE is a quiz night

in the Salvation Army centre, Castle Street on March 1 at 7pm.

Harriet's pizza, pasta and quiz night will be a fun evening for all the family or groups of friends. Admission is £5.

Bois Goytre-Hen male choir is holding a St David's Day concert in the Aberkenfig Bible Church, Pandry Road on March 1, at 7pm.

Conducting the choir will be Dale Aubrey Evans, head of music and performing arts in Tredegar comprehensive school.

Pianist Bethan Edwards has accompanied opera star Lesley Garrett.

Soloist will be Rhydian Jenkins, winner of many Urdd and Welsh National Eisteddfod competitions.

Tickets cost £7, call 07976 420161.

Pen-y-Fai WI

JEAN GRIFFITHS, president gave greetings to all members who celebrated their birthdays recently.

She advised that there were now 63 members on the register. Mavis Heck then read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved.

Chris Davies gave details of an event taking place in Miskin church hall on May 13, listing unusual remedies for every day ailments.

The speaker, Stephen Jarvis, gave a talk on 'those were the days', covering early radio. The washing of clothes was carried out in tubs with a rotating paddle operated by hand.

The next meeting will be at the C of E, Pen-y-Fai primary school on March 17 at 7pm.

Tynyrheol primary

As a friend, I cannot understand Bridgend CBC's decision to close this school.

I thought that this council believed in promoting local community spirit, yet in this particular case it is helping to break up a strong community spirit by bussing the children to another area, which is inaccessible to a lot of people in Llangeinor.

CHARITY FAIR AT REST BAY

THE 'Healing the Wounds' charity is holding craft fairs at the Rest Annex in Rest Bay, Porthcawl, on St David's Day, March 1, then the first Saturday of every month until further notice.

It is open from 10am-4pm. Refreshments are available in the tea room, with toilet facilities, free entry and parking.

Care home residents welcome fashion show



ON Thursday, February 20, 'RMBI Albert Edward' in Porthcawl held its first-ever fashion show in conjunction with Bon Marche Neath.

Ladies from the care home were treated to an evening of fashion, bucks fizz and nibbles while the gents propped up the bar!

Our lovely models for the evening were Angel and Geraldine from our domestic staff, Amanda, Cath and Sheila from our care staff, and Sara from the administration team.

Our host for the evening was Gaynor Williams and our manager, Alyson, opened and closed the show in stunning outfits to residents' applause.

Residents started

the evening with a drinks reception and then enjoyed the show.

There was also an opportunity to purchase items.

Our raffle was won during the evening by Bettina Phillip, and all money raised went towards our amenity fund, which buys all the little extras for residents.

We were extremely grateful to the local primary school and Andrew Wood for allowing us to borrow the staging for the evening.

We hope this will be the first of many in what could become an annual event.

Special thanks must also go to Phil Aubrey, for his continued support and help.

Report by
REBECCA TIMMS

Meeting places health on agenda



Coun Phil John with Patch, the Fresh Start Dragon. Coun John joined community members to listen to a presentation from Halo Leisure.

THE latest Communities First forum took place on February 19 in Caerau, where the focus was on health.

Those attending took part in healthy living activities, found out about free health sessions in the valley, and listened to speakers from Halo Leisure, Communities First and the Llynfi Valley 20 Project.

Paul White, cluster manager for the Communities First team in Maesteg and Caerau said: "Communities First is committed to working with local people and organisations to develop awareness and take up of services which improve life chances for those who are most disadvantaged."

Huw Jenkins attended the meeting and also voluntarily runs the Llynfi Valley Table Tennis Club; he said: "I found the forum very interesting and we had a few pluses out of it."

"The chat with Halo was good - we applied for a Halo Sports Foundation fund for one of our girls, and we also arranged for some of our members to go on a free first aid course with Communities First."

Free health activities are being run as part of the Communities First programme, including fitness taster sessions, food hygiene classes, and Zumba fitness classes.

Call 01656 815 156, or visit the website www.commfirstbridgend.co.uk for details.



Fashion was the order of the day at RMBI Albert Edward recently!



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Tondu love rival murder

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

They were told by the knife-wielding Jamie Curtis: "That's what you do when someone ****s about with your girlfriend."

Curtis, 26, of Heol-yr-Ysgol, Tondu, pleaded guilty to a charge of murder and was jailed

for life. Judge Eleri Rhys directed that he serve a minimum of 23 years before being considered for release by the parole board.

Mr Taylor said that Curtis was in a relationship with Lorraine Davies and they lived together, but she began a relationship with Mr

Hier and chose him over Curtis. On October 23, Curtis used her mobile phone to text Mr Hier to arrange a meeting.

They came together in a lane where three children were present. Curtis put Mr Hier in a headlock and stabbed him.

Attempts were made to resuscitate Mr Hier

but he stopped breathing.

"He had a gaping wound in his neck," said Mr Taylor. At the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, further attempts were made to revive the injured man, but they failed.

Curtis was spotted at the scene, and asked: "What happened here?" and walked away, laughing.

Shortly afterwards, Curtis was spoken to by a police officer and when arrested, he said: "That's my girlfriend's boyfriend. I haven't beaten anyone up."

In a statement, the dead man's mother, Ailwen Trott, 77, described her son as a "loving and caring gentle giant."

She said her life had changed for the worse and she now rarely went out.

In mitigation, Matthew Roberts, for Curtis, said: "As a matter of course he would usually carry a knife."

It was fortunate, he said, that the children at

the scene did not have to be called as witnesses.

"His jealousy had been developing for some weeks and consumed him," said Mr Roberts.

He accepted there was an element of planning and a high degree of culpability. Curtis' guilty plea was courageous, he added.

"He accepts he is going to prison for a very long time and that he took a human life."

The judge said Curtis had thrown the blood-stained knife into a river to conceal evidence.

Mr Hier's mother, she added, had been left devastated and traumatised.

LOCAL HOSPITAL COMPLAINTS PLEA

PROFESSOR June Andrews, who is leading the independent review of patient care at two hospitals in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg (ABMU) Health Board, has asked people who have made complaints about the Princess of Wales or Neath Port Talbot Hospitals in the past three years, to come forward and share their experiences with the review team.

Professor Andrews is leading the independent review on behalf of Assembly health minister Mark Drakeford.

Professor Andrews said: "We want to hear directly from patients and families who made any complaint about the Princess of Wales or Neath Port Talbot Hospi-

itals (ABMU Health Board) between December 2010 and December 2013.

"We want to get a clearer picture about what complaints were made, from local people themselves, and to understand the levels of satisfaction with what happened as a result, particularly about the care of older people.

"We are using a short, simple-to-use questionnaire to gather some information. Then we

hope to talk to a number of those who respond about their experiences. Obviously we shall be respecting confidentiality at all times and will only be discussing any detail about the complaints once we have the necessary permissions."

Anyone wishing to contact the independent team should use the on-line survey at www.dementia.stir.ac.uk/ircq.

Jamie's talk at Hensol

BRIDGEND Business Forum and RCT Business Club are extending a warm 'croeso' to well-known BBC Wales presenter Jamie Owen, in celebration of St David's Day at the Vale Resort Hotel, Hensol on February 28.

Jamie will be entertaining guests with his talk entitled 'Communicating - using the right words and sometimes in the right order', which promises an insight into the world of TV broadcasting and journalism. His career began in London where his voice was heard reading the shipping forecast, the news, and 'Today in Parliament' on BBC Radio Four. (See St David's Day page 24)

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'Protect historic assets' says an AM

LIB DEB AM, Eluned Parrott, is calling on the Welsh Government to make local listing statutory to "ensure local assets are protected for future generations".

She said communities across Wales have their own local historic buildings or structures that have important aspects of social, economic, cultural or military history that need to be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

"I believe it is essential to list and protect our local assets, so future generations can enjoy the significance of our history. This is essential as the forthcoming Heritage Bill aims to ensure the future of our past," the AM said.

"Assets of community history need to be maintained so that the local

sense of identity can be passed on. At the moment, local authorities can choose to locally list buildings, so your community identity is dependent on your council.

"Local lists should be statutory so that all communities across Wales can place a marker on the assets in their area that make the community theirs.

"Local listing needs to carry weight so that assets can be protected. Communities can be left distraught when a local historic asset is demolished or renovated beyond recognition. Local assets need to be listed and its meaning made clear.

"Developers need to be aware of what can or can't be done to an asset. It is essential that any redevelopment allows the asset to maintain its local essence," she added.

COUNCIL OPTS FOR 4.9 PER CENT COUNCIL TAX RISE

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (CBCB) has pointed to UK Government cuts as the reason for its proposed rise in council tax - which will be combined with some cuts in services.

BCBC has stayed just inside the Welsh Government's informal five per cent cap in council tax rises, opting for a jump of 4.9 per cent.

Speaking last week, BCBC Leader Coun Mel Nott said: "There's no doubt that this has been the most challenging budget that BCBC has ever had to set.

"As always, education remains a priority, and we are continuing to invest in local schools with capital improvements planned between now and 2022-23 which are set to include a new primary school for Kenfig Hill,

all-new premises for Coity Primary and a new primary for Pencoe, too.

"We also remain committed towards regeneration and ensuring that our main towns can compete in a difficult economic climate.

"On top of recent enhancements such as the all-new outdoor area at Maesteg Market or the brand new premises for Bridgend Library at Bridgend Recreation Centre, we are going to invest in work such as new infrastructure and coastal defences in Porthcawl, improvements at Bridgend Indoor Market, ongoing highway maintenance across the county borough and support for town and community council projects.

"At the same time, we have identified areas where we think that some services can be delivered more effectively and are looking at these - for example, by refocusing our Youth

by PHILIP IRWIN

Services provision - while in other areas it has been a case of being completely realistic about the situation and accepting that we cannot subsidise everything. The choices that we have had to make have not been easy and we understand how greatly people value many of the services that the council has traditionally provided.

"That's why we carried out a great deal of consultation and scrutiny while preparing these plans in order to try and arrive at the right balance, which I believe we have achieved.

"For example, we are no longer seeking to cease operating the complex needs play scheme during the Easter and summer holidays, and have postponed proposals for removing the subsidy to the meals at home serv-

ice in order to give officers more time to carry out further investigations into this very complex issue.

"I think that it is hugely significant that more than half of the £13 million budget shortfall for 2014-15 is set to be found through internal efficiencies at the authority, and the council is delivering further savings through a range of collaborative projects, contract renegotiations and the potential transfer of specific services to partner organisations."

"As well as striving to protect services, the Cabinet is committed to minimising job losses, and we have therefore agreed to contain the staff pay bill in 2014-15 by implementing a pay freeze across the council for all but the lowest paid, who will receive a one per cent uplift.

"The cabinet is also asking all councillors to agree to forego any pay award that they may be entitled to receive in 2014-15."

Coun Mike Gregory, cabinet member for

resources, said: "The difficulties facing councils throughout Wales as a result of reduced funding from central Government have been well publicised over the last few months, but we have listened to local people, taken account of the views of the scrutiny committee and have done our utmost best to try and ensure that as many frontline services

as possible have been protected. "Against the backdrop of having to save £36 million over the coming four years, this budget demonstrates that we are being entirely realistic about the very limited choices that are available to us, and are seeking to keep the inevitable impact on services to an absolute minimum."

Pancake prayer

AS it will soon be Shrove Tuesday, which is popularly known as Pancake Day, this enlightens us of the start of Lent leading towards Easter.

At this time, there are various ways of serving pancakes available but I would like to take this opportunity to share a recipe for a 'Pancake Prayer' with your readers as follows:

*This coming Lent may we find God's recipe to make us what He would have us be;
The eggs of the Pancake remind me of His creative love,
The flour of the Pancake reminds us of the life He gives.
The milk of the Pancake reminds us of the purity He seeks
May the flavour of the Pancake reminds us of the alertness needed by all who follow His only begotten Son, Jesus
A blessed and peaceful Easter to you and all the staff.*

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Rhys and Rebecca, captains in harmony!

TWO British Army officers are nearing the end of their first operational deployment together as husband and wife.

Rhys and Rebecca Pogson-Hughes-Emanuel, better known as Captain 'Becky' P-H-E and Captain Rhys P-H-E, left for Helmand Province in September.

Rhys (34), from Bridgend, is on his second operational tour, as Second-In-Command with 39 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 32 Engineer Regiment (32 Engr Regt).

He is responsible for the career paths and training of the squadron personnel. His first tour was to Iraq on Operation TELIC 8.

Rhys said: "This tour has been very different to my Iraq tour. The biggest

contrast is the reduction in fighting, with the Afghan security forces now taking the lead. The communication facilities here are very good which helps a great deal in terms of keeping in touch with our families."

Becky and Rhys both joined the Army in their early 20s and met while completing an inter-service degree as part of the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS), at Aston University, Birmingham, where they studied full time during the week, and ran the weekend exercises as Platoon Commanders for Wellbeck Defence College cadets.

Rhys's mother Mary still lives in Bridgend, his natural father lives in South Africa.

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Green office on 01443 238910 or drop us an email: getintouch@lumin8u.com.

Council receives childcare grant

THE Vale Council is to receive £94,037 from the Welsh Government – to help provide affordable childcare out of school hours,

As well as childcare, the funding can be used to support holiday clubs and play schemes during the school holidays, supporting working parents.

The deputy minister for tackling poverty, Vaughan Gething said: "We will expect local authorities to show us how the money will be used to provide childcare provision which meets the needs of parents and carers."

"We know that many parents and carers work atypical hours, are on low income, have disabled children, and there is a need to consider how we meet the demand for Welsh language childcare."

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Out and About with The GEM

Rail talk

BARRY Railway Society's February lecture, '150 years of Danish railways, 1847-1997', will be given by John Wilmot at the Conservative Club, 15 Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF64 2EZ, tonight (Thursday, February 27) at 7.30pm.

Valeways walk

Today, February 27 at 10am, 'A fort and castle', starting at the Fox and Hounds public house, Llancarfan.

Merched y Wawr

THIS Saturday, March 1, from 10.30am - 12pm, 'Merched y Wawr' will hold a coffee morning at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge with all proceeds to the Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen.

A raffle, various stalls and freshly baked Welsh cakes will be available.

Entrance £2.50 for adults, will include Welsh cake and tea or coffee. Children admitted free.

Ar Dydd Sadwrn, Mawrth 1af, cynhelir Bore Coffi yn Neuadd Lai y Bontfaen rhwng 10.30am - 12pm gan Ferched y Wawr Bydd yr elw ar gyfer Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen. Bydd raffl, stondinau amrywiol a phice ar y maen wedi eu coginio yn ffres ar gael yn ystod y digwyddiad. Pris mynediad oedolyn bydd £2.50 i gynnwys te neu goffi a phicen ar y maen. Mynediad am ddim i blant. Croeso cynnes i bawb.

Rummage sale

A RUMMAGE sale will be

What's On IN BRIEF

held in All Saints Church, Lesser hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, March 1 from 10am until 11.30am. Entry 50p to include coffee/tea. Plenty of bargains for all. All proceeds for charity.

Councillors' surgery

THE Llantwit First Independents will hold a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, March 1, from 9.30am until 11.30am. Residents who have an issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Mayor's coffee

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of RAFA Barry branch on Tuesday, March 4 from 10.30am-12noon in the Civic Office. All are welcome.

District Flower Arrangers Club

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club will meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday, March 5 in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Ruth Milton-Jones will give a demonstration entitled 'Fun of the Fairground.'

Come, relax and enjoy the evening. A warm welcome

awaits you.

Art society

AT Cowbridge Art Society on March 6, Abergavenny artist Jantien Powell will lead a practical session on painting (poppies with acrylic, ink and pastels).

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm - 9pm and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Bowls meeting

LLANTWIT Ladies Bowling Club's pre-season meeting has been changed to Friday, March 7 at 2.30pm. Old and new members are welcome; free coaching.

Cowbridge lecture

COWBRIDGE History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, March 7 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge, entitled: Rorke's Drift - Zululand and the Welsh Connection, by Don Gerrard (Cowbridge History Society). All welcome!

Happy mediums

An evening of mediumship will be presented by Barry National Spiritualist Church and Centre, Buttrills Road, Barry, on Monday, March 3 at 7pm, with Moya O'Dwyer and Leah Bond.

It's easy to fall for the charms of Her

JOAQUIN PHOENIX has built an impressive body of work, teaming with directors to produce solid work that, more often than not, achieves critical, if not box office, acclaim.

Coming off the back of an Oscar-nominated turn in Paul Thomas Anderson's *The Master*, Phoenix partners with Spike Jonze in *Her*.

Phoenix plays Theodore, a lonely, recently separated writer, who purchases a new operating system for his computer; when said operating system is installed, calling herself Samantha (and voiced by Scarlett Johansson), Theodore finds himself slowly falling for the system, and Theodore's life becomes a far better proposition - but for how long?

The concept of artificial intelligence being able to match, and even supercede, human intelligence is one that has fuelled cinema for years, whether it be action blockbuster or thoughtful small-scale films.

Her is a film that leans on the latter, but while it's a premise that could be played for broad laughs, the end result is a film that is tender and contemplative, a work that takes a mirror to the habits of a population seemingly more invested in technology than humanity, and shows the outcome of such habits; it's emotive, touching and intelligent, if perhaps slightly too drawn-out.

Spike Jonze's filmography is littered with woozy, offbeat subject matter, yet married to an emotional core that always grounds the subject matter, and *Her* is no different; the set-up giving way to what you could class as a traditional romantic film.

The characters meet, fall for each other and then slowly the sheen of the new relationship gives way to recriminations and misunderstanding; the fact that this occurs between a man and a computer system almost feels redundant, and is downplayed beautifully.

Visually Jonze gives the film a futuristic feel yet without being gimmicky; the technology is in advance of our own, physical books are

now a rarity (something that seems to be getting closer each day) but the concerns and emotions are all too real.

Jonze invests a light touch but with an undercurrent of sadness and melancholia, and, as Samantha becomes more sentient, a slightly darker, sinister edge that slowly builds towards a climax which is both low-key and fitting.

Having written the script as well, there are the common elements of low-key comedy at play that pervade Jonze's work, but the film's main message concerns our use and reliance on technology.

The world Jonze has created is one thoroughly lacking in human interaction (aside from Theodore's friendship with neighbour Amy, beautifully played by Amy Adams), people are too engaged in their computers and phones to actually engage with each other.

Theodore's attempt at dating goes awkwardly wrong, while Samantha's attempts to engage the use of a surrogate to fulfil the physical side of their relationship meets a similarly toe-curling end; it seems Jonze has desensitised the characters to humanity, a technology-obsessed populace flirting around the edges with the real world.

It is both a warning message and also a reflection of modern society, even down to Theodore's job of composing letters on behalf of people to their loved ones.

The performances are wonderfully measured, Joaquin Phoenix embodying Theodore with a sad-sack quality, a man who is crying out to be awoken from his mundane life and, per-



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

haps, seeking solace in the fact he can engage in something without the commitment of being with someone real.

It's a beautiful performance, subtle and aching, and given that he spends the majority of his screentime conversing with a voice, all the more impressive.

Said voice is essayed with aplomb by Scarlett Johansson, whose smoky larynx gives

Samantha a personality rather than a disembodied voice; it's easy to see why Theodore falls

for her, but as the relationship grows and the first seeds of doubt are thrown in, Johansson manages to convey the changes with great effect.

Certainly, the film does feel a bit leggy in places, with some story elements stretched out a little too much, and some of the emotional impact doesn't quite hit home as hard as intended; but as a piece of work that makes you feel and think, *Her* succeeds in every way, a beautiful piece of work that satisfies.

VERDICT - A touching film about human disconnect and the urge to lose ourselves in virtual worlds, *Her* is a gorgeous effort, wonderfully brought to life by Joaquin Phoenix and Scarlett Johansson's vocals; Spike Jonze's writing is sharp, his direction woefully beautiful, and it all comes together to make a captivating watch. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Lost In Translation* (2003), *Blue Valentine* (2010).

Huw and JPR to 'doodle' for Epilepsy Action

BRIDGEND-BORN newsreader Huw Edwards and former rugby union star JPR Williams are among a host of famous faces who have put pen to paper to take part in this year's National Doodle Day.

Their doodles will be auctioned on eBay, along with dozens of celebrity scribbles, from Friday,

March 7 National Doodle Day. The auction will raise money for national charity Epilepsy Action.

Information on the National Doodle Day celebrity auction and competition can be found at nationaldoodleday.org.uk. The auction will run from March 7 to Sunday, March 16.

The closing date for entries into the National Doodle Day competition is Friday, April 4.



Supported by The GEM newspaper

CRESTA COACHES

Day Trips & Tours
Spring & Summer 2014

Date	Day	Destination	Adult Fare	OAP Child
18/3/2014	Tuesday	Moreton in the Marsh (Market Day)	£11.00	£10.50
29/3/2014	Saturday	Cotswolds Villages - Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95
12/4/2014	Saturday	Weston Super Mare	£12.00	£11.00
19/4/2014	Saturday	Windsor & Legoland (Coach Only)	£14.00	£13.00
22/4/2014	Tuesday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£9.00
26/4/2014	Saturday	West Midlands Safari (Coach Only)	£14.50	£13.50
06/5/2014	Tuesday	Abergavenny Market	£9.95	£9.50
10/5/2014	Saturday	Malvern Spring Gardening Show (Coach Only)	£11.50	£10.50
17/5/2014	Saturday	London Flyer, Sights or London Show (Coach Only)	£15.50	£15.00
24/5/2014	Saturday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£14.00	£13.00
26/5/2014	Monday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£9.00
07/6/2014	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon	£12.95	£11.95
13/6/2014	Friday	Cotswolds, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50
14/6/2014	Saturday	Oxford City Centre	£14.00	£13.50
21/6/2014	Saturday	Ross on Wye 'Labels' & Gloucester Quays	£11.50	£10.50
28/6/2014	Saturday	Cotswolds Villages - Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95
05/7/2014	Saturday	Street Village & Weston Super Mare	£12.50	£11.50
12/7/2014	Saturday	Worcester	£13.75	£13.00
18/7/2014	Friday	Cheshire, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£185.00	£185.00
19/7/2014	Saturday	Haverfordwest & St Davids City	£14.00	£13.50
23/7/2014	Wednesday	Royal Welsh Show, Coach Only	£12.00	£11.50
25/7/2014	Friday	Lincoln, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£159.50	£159.50
11/8/2014	Monday	Norwich & Sandringham, 5 Day Holiday, 4*	£264.00	£264.00
01/9/2014	Monday	Cork Ireland, 5 Day Holiday, 4* Hotel	£355.00	£355.00
3/10/2014	Friday	Cotswolds, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50

Additional Summer, Autumn & Winter dates will be added to our full 2014 programme. Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential. Local pickups throughout South Wales.

For further information on our day trips or the hire of coaches or mini-buses

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Friday 27th July 2014. Lincoln, 4 days Friday to Monday.
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Monday 11th August 2014. Norwich 5 days Monday to Friday.
Adults £264.

Monday 1st September 2014. Cork, Ireland, 5 days Monday to Friday.
Adults £355.

Call our reservations line for further information on 01656 660366

Lottery cash for good causes

MORE than £3.4 million of National Lottery funding was invested into the Vale and Bridgend county borough last year.

A total of 237 grants were awarded, providing a cash boost to local arts, sport and heritage and community groups helping the area's most vulnerable people.

A Lottery spokesman said: "In 2013, grants awarded included £5,078 to 5th Barry (Salem Baptist) Sea Scout Group for a safety boat cover for canoeing and sailing; £50,000 to the Vale Council for a light art commission to enhance the iconic eastern shelter on the promenade at Barry Island; and £1,245 to Cowbridge Judo Club to buy equip-

ment and for coach education."

These projects, and any organisation which has received Lottery funding, have a chance to gain national recognition for their work, as the National Lottery Awards 2014 open for entries.

The winners of The National Lottery Awards will receive a £2,000 cash prize and national recognition at a star-studded event broadcast on BBC-1 later this year.

If you want to see a local project celebrated in this year's National Lottery Awards, visit www.nationallotteryawards.org.uk to find out more or call 0207 293 3599; entries must be received by midnight on March 12.

George's fond memories of Barry Town AFC (and his sporting travels!)



From left to right: 1. ? 2. The manager, Harry Haslam. 3. George Gray. 4. Colin Vincent. 5. Peter Isaacs. 6. John Prosser. 7. Ken Dolman. 8. Albert Gardner (trainer). 9. Basil Bright. 10. Brian James. 11. ? 12. George Evans. 13. ? Brewer. 14. Trevor Clarke. 15. Dick Twigg. 16. Bill Hanbury. 17. Mr Snook (Director).... Can readers fill in the blanks and tell us more?

FORMER Barry Town AFC footballer, George Evans, supplied The GEM with this nostalgic reminder of the team in the late 1950s – but wonders whether anyone can fill in the blanks.

The photograph was taken during a reception at a hotel in Torbay.

George explained: "I know it was in the late 1950s, but I can't remember the exact date.

"We were in Torbay because we were playing Exeter. There aren't many of us left – I'm 78 now."

The manager, Harry Haslam (second left) died in 1986 at the age of 65. He was more famous for managing Sheffield United in the late seventies and in the mid-seventies getting Luton Town promotion to the top tier of English football, then known as the First Division.

George, who is from Barry, and now lives in Rhosce, excelled at two sports.

"I got a Welsh youth football cap against England and played in the Southern League and the Welsh League, and I was the Welsh table tennis champion five times."

After his football career was over, George was invited to play in the German table tennis league and competed well into his forties.

"At the time, Kevin Keegan was playing football for Hamburg."

"I used to go and watch Hamburg and on one occasion a chap sat next to me and when I looked across at him I realised it was Franz Beckenbauer."

"I also got the chance to meet Kevin Keegan. He was a very friendly, sociable guy."

That period also led to one of his most enduring friendships.

"At one time the German table tennis league only allowed one foreigner per team, but eventually they relaxed the rule."

"A Chinese player joined, Liang Geliang. We hit it off and are still in touch all these years later."

George has visited 35 countries in his life – many of them thanks to his career in table tennis.

Of all the countries he visited, one leaves the most indelible mark on his memory.

"In 1977, I went to play in Pyongyang, North Korea."

"Every room contained a photograph of the leader. An American threw one of the photographs out of the window and there was an investigation. It was very frightening wondering whether we would get out of the country."

From his twenties until his mid-forties, George worked as a 'trimmer' at Barry docks, helping in the safe movement of coal into ships that took the 'black gold' around the globe.

Nowadays, George enjoys another sport.

"I play golf at Wenvoe Golf Club. Sometimes I talk to a friend about football and he is the same as me – we prefer rugby. I don't like all the diving and wrestling matches in the box – that's not football."

THE BEAR HOTEL LINKS UP WITH LEISURE CENTRE

THE Bear Hotel in Cowbridge and the town's leisure centre have teamed up to offer any visitors who stay at the Bear Hotel use of the centre.

The leisure centre is situated just behind the hotel, boasts a 50-station gym, and runs a variety of classes to help people improve and reach health and fitness goals.

Managing director of the Bear Hotel, Julian Hitchcock, speaking about the partnership, said: "We are proud of our local connections and we have been looking at a way of helping our residents to keep fit while they are staying with us – and with the leisure centre on our doorstep, this seemed the ideal way."

"I and my Bear Back Riders team will be taking part in the East Coast Cycle Ride for Velindre in September, so know the importance of keeping in shape."

The hotel will also shortly be launching its 'ride a bike to work' scheme and will again be offering this to any residents who wish to leave their cars in the car park and cycle to the office.

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Sandville centre thanks Cardiff and Vale College students for their support



The students with Sandville reflexologist Colin Karp.

A GROUP of complementary therapy students from Cardiff and Vale College have been thanked for their hard work during work placements at a south Wales self-help centre.

The students practised reflexology at the Sandville Self-help Centre, which is based in Ton Kenfig, near Porthcawl. Sandville treats people with a range of illnesses, as well as their friends and relatives.

The Level 3 students also received treatments from the centre's therapists.

Colin Karp, a reflexologist at Sandville, visited the students at the College's Colcot Road site in a personal capacity to thank the students and give them some feedback.

"The response that I have had was very positive," Colin said.

"Everyone has said that the students have been very courteous and effective. Congratulations to them and many thanks to the college for all of the help that you have given us."

The CAVC head of hairdressing, beauty and complementary therapies, Ceri Evans, said: "Working with Sandville

has given our learners extensive knowledge in treating individuals with a wide variety of long-term illnesses.

"This experience has

encouraged some of our learners to continue their work experience into the voluntary sector and really make a difference in their communities."

Barry schoolgirl's death was accident

AN inquest in Cardiff this week recorded a verdict of accidental death on a Barry schoolgirl.

Georgia Marshall, 13, received a fatal electric shock when she touched an aluminium ladder in the family home.

The inquest heard that an electric cable that was wrapped around the ladder had become worn, and a live wire had come into contact with the metal ladder.

The Assistant Coroner, Christopher Woodley, told the inquest that death would have been "almost instantaneous".

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Four speakers enthral English Speaking Union



Enid Evans and Catherine James from St Nicholas' who helped with the schools' public speaking competitions.

Words and pictures by HEATHER MARCH.

FROM Treorchy to Timbuktoo was the intriguing title of the February lunch and meeting of the south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union.

Members were given an insight into 'where their money goes' – as four speakers gave presentations on their projects, all sponsored by the branch. The aim of the ESU is to promote the English language at home and overseas and this was certainly demonstrated.

Annie Syrett told of her work with street children in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where knowledge of English lifts many into employment.

Anna-Rose Thomas (aged 16) from Treorchy Comprehensive, demonstrated her public speaking ability. Last year, this school team won the Wales competition finals, run by the branch (26 schools entered teams) and went on to the ESU national finals, where Anna-Rose was chosen as the best overall speaker. Her two team mates also came to the lunch.

Sandra Skinner from Hay-on-Wye spoke of that town's twinning with Timbuktoo, West Africa, and the value of the sponsorship to help teach remedial English to children there.

The last speaker was Alex Palmer, a student on the BA (Hons) acting course at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama who has this year won the branch-sponsored award for achievement in Shakespeare, and who gave an enthralling taste of his performances in *Richard II*, *Twelfth Night* and *Hamlet*.

All 100 members who attended agreed that this informative afternoon had been a great success and were delighted to also welcome students from Howells School, Llandaff, whose staff are hosting a new primary schools speaking competition in conjunction with the branch.

The next meeting of the branch (membership now approximately 300) will be on April 29 at the Cardiff City Stadium, when the speaker will be Lady Carnarvon on 'The Real Downton Abbey'.

For details of membership contact Derek Morgan, chairman, on 01656 669129.



Murriel Harrison (ESU regional development officer) and Molly, with David Owen from Penarth.



Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards (president) and the four speakers: Sandra Skinner, Annie Syrett, Alex Palper and Anna-Rose Thomas.



LEFT: Ian Campbell (from Penarth) and Kate Thomas from Nelson – Lord Lieutenant of Mid-Glamorgan.



Derek Morgan with Lowri Pritchard and the Treorchy team, Anna-Rose Thomas, Josh Wilson and Liam Nagle-Coco.

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WINA campaign dispels the myths... Local newspapers are With You All The Way'

AN unprecedented multi-media promotional campaign is being mounted nationwide by local weekly newspapers and the Weekly Independent Newspaper Association (WINA).

WINA will lead the UK's 930 weekly newspapers in reinforcing awareness of the involvement local weekly newspapers have in the wellbeing of their local communities and the role that the local weekly newspaper plays as a focal point of community life.

A TV campaign with a 30-second showcase advertisement was launched on February 21, on Granada, Border, Yorkshire (South, Central, East and West) ITV, LWT and Meridian (East and West), (areas specific to WINA newspaper titles) backed up by a 90-second extended version to be featured on all weekly newspaper websites across the UK.

A specially commissioned song, 'Movies in My Mind' has been composed and is used in the promotion.

'With You All The Way' can be viewed at:

<http://localweeklynewspapers.co.uk/>.

Using animation, it has been possible to vividly bring to life the interaction between a central character named Ray, his local community and his local weekly newspaper.

Starting shortly after his birth, (reported in the newspaper birth columns) Ray is then seen featuring in a Nativity play – as a donkey.

A local newspaper photographer is present. At a campaign run in the local paper to save a local wood Ray

meets his future wife and he later buys a cafe from advertising within the local paper and refurbishes it from services found within the classified columns, culminating in a local 30 year anniversary news piece.

Finally, the story turns full circle at a Nativity play which includes a performance by Ray's grandson – this time also reported online by the local weekly newspaper, and shown on a tablet held by his grandfather.

The campaign has the support of the Newspaper Society, the organisation representing the local press throughout the UK.

Local weekly newspapers' audience is bigger than ever – having a weekly readership of 22.5 million every week across the country in every town, village and community in the UK and a growing online and mobile audience expanding this figure to approximately 25 million each week.

The coverage and readership Local Weeklies have in print and online in their communities is larger than any other media.

Local Weeklies remain closely connected to their local communities and are trusted more than any other media within them.

Joanna Parlbay (Chairman of WINA and Managing Director of Newark Advertiser Media Group), said: "We are working to dispel some of the myths that local newspapers and the role they have in their communities may be under threat.

"There have always been and will be challenges, but we are confident that the closeness and trust we share with the readers and advertisers we have in every community in print and

online will enable us to carry on serving them as we have done through the many economic upturns and downturns there have been, and the evolution of media into the 21st century".

The promotion was originally the idea of Sir Ray Tindle (Chairman of Tindle Newspapers), who said: "I am delighted that this promotion for local weekly newspapers has come to fruition through the great drive and effort of Joanna Parlbay as Chairman of WINA, Russell Whitehair, Geraldine Allinson, and Jeremy Willis".

David Newell (Director of the Newspaper society), said: "Weekly newspapers are the cornerstone of the newspaper industry in the UK. They connect communities and businesses together in a way which no other media can.

"Today marks the launch of a nationwide initiative to promote weekly newspapers and celebrate their success and their future.

"The Newspaper Society will play its full part in supporting the WINA campaign and in ensuring key opinion formers understand the central role weekly newspapers have in today's media landscape".

The GEM says:

"As proud to take part in a national campaign that turns the spotlight on something very close to our hearts – the much-prized relationship between ourselves and the local community we serve."

VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

RIGHT:
Jane Hutt AM with
Chair Jenny Sabine
and local historian
Deidre Beddoe.



VALE AM Jane Hutt met members and staff from the Women's Archive of Wales at an event in the Senedd on February 19, and learnt more about their latest project, 'Voices from the Factory Floor.'

The project has secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to record the oral histories of women who worked in light industry factories throughout Wales between 1945 and 1973.

The AM said: "I am proud to be a member of the Women's Archive of Wales, which seeks to promote the recognition of women in Welsh history and preserve fascinating sources of women's history in Wales.

"If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful charity, please visit their website at www.womensarchive-wales.org" she urged.

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THERE are a number of property agents on every High Street. Some offer special deals, some insurance policies, some legal advice and assistance.

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It is difficult as a landlord to know who to go to. Newbold Solicitors suggest you research your agents very carefully, just as you would want them to research any prospective tenants.

However, more and more agents are offering to save you money on solicitor's fees by giving you legal advice, and even attending court to represent you.

Is there anything wrong with this? Catherine from Newbold states: "An agent has no rights of audience, which means they cannot sign legal documents, or attend court to represent you.

"If they do, they may be breaking the law (Legal Service Act 2007). The case is often thrown out and this can cost a landlord thousands in lost rental and tenants' legal costs.

"Agents do not have the relevant training or

qualifications to give legal advice. Is it worth taking the risk and not paying a solicitor for this advice? No, not in my opinion.

"With the average rent being £600 a month, every month delayed is a month without rent.

"Why trust an unqualified and unregulated agent to give advice. Would you ask your local herbalist to diagnose a reoccurring illness?

With a leading housing specialist in your area, it is not worth the risk and the cost is not as much as you may think.

Newbolds only charge from £250 for a possession order.

Congratulations! CONGRATULATIONS to Kate O'Sullivan from our Neath office, who has been nominated for student of the year in her Legal Executive exams.

Kate, who juggles being a wife, mother, and working full time with her difficult CILEX exams, came first in her year and on St David's Day will be attending the award ceremony in the Hilton Cardiff for student of the year.

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THERE will be fun for all the family to celebrate St David's Day in the Palmerston Centre, Barry, at an event organised by the Vale play development team, in partnership with adult and community learning.

The theme of the fun day is to celebrate the child's right to play and there will be plenty of play activities on offer for both children and adults of all ages to enjoy, all with a Welsh theme.

Admission is FREE and there will be the chance to try some arts and crafts, junk modelling, photography, clay, baking Welsh cakes and soft play.

Toys and activities will be provided for under-fives with their parents in the Palmerston Centre crèche. Parents will be able to join in the fun, or relax with a coffee, while the children play under the supervision of Vale of Glamorgan play staff.

Families are welcome to get into the spirit of the occasion by wearing their Welsh hats and costumes.

For more information, contact the Play Development team or call Palmerston Centre on 01446 733762.

Apprentice off to work in Cyprus

BEAUTY apprentice Anna Henley, from the Vale Resort Spa, Hensol, has been selected for a work experience placement in Paphos, Cyprus from May 31.

The visit has been arranged by hair and beauty training provider ISA Training, based at Pencoed in partnership with Discovery Training in Cyprus.

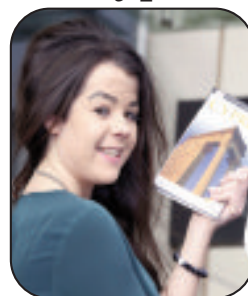
The two training providers signed a pioneering international partnership last year to deliver hairdressing and beauty qualifications in Cyprus. ISA Training provides verification and support for City & Guilds apprenticeships in hairdressing and beauty delivered by Discovery Training's three training centres.

Anna will join a group of 10 apprentices and two staff on the trip to Paphos, where she will spend two weeks working in a salon. As the owner and customers speak Greek, the apprentices are now learning the language to help them settle in quickly.

"It's an amazing opportunity and, as I want to work abroad in the future, I think it will be the perfect experience for me," said Anna, who began her apprenticeship at the Vale Resort Spa last July.

"I'm excited about seeing what the salons, spas and general work culture are like in Cyprus." ISA Training's managing director Berni Tyler thanked owners of salons for agreeing to release their apprentices for two weeks in June.

"We had such a high calibre of applicants that we could easily have selected 25 for the Cyprus visit," she said. "Because the learners will be working in salons that are typically Greek, they are now learning the language to that they can settle in quickly," she added.



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SPECIAL FEATURE

AT The Glamorgan GEM we are seeing social media increasingly becoming used as part of the marketing mix, along with traditional advertising – as seen in our newspapers, for example.

Adopted by many organisations and seen as a free, instant mode of communication, it raises a company's profile and creates awareness of what they do. It also allows for personal interaction with customers, improving customer service.

In The GEM you will often see advertisers promoting their social media channels with

Twitter and Facebook logos and special promotions.

This feature brings you the information you need to find local businesses on Facebook and be the first to know about what's on. Take this opportunity to express your affinity and 'like' these businesses on Facebook, to keep up to date with all their latest news, provide reviews and feedback, know of special offers, and enter their exclusive competitions!

The GEM is now offering one lucky reader, every week, the chance to win £25 to spend with an advertiser. All you have to do is 'like' The GEM's Facebook page and answer the ques-

tion posted every Wednesday, the answer to which can be found in that week's edition.

Winners are announced on Facebook every Monday; find us at www.facebook.com/GlamorganGEM to enter and good luck!

We are excited to develop an ongoing partnership with our advertisers, to help them build their social media presence through advertising to our loyal readers in the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs.

• If you would like to advertise your business in The GEM's next Social Media feature, please contact us on 01446 774484.

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Gabrielle Karly Goldie

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Oscars of Cowbridge

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

Our lucky winning reader has chosen to spend this £25 voucher with...

Tiffin Rasoi

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

Simply answer the question posted on Facebook each week.

You will find the answer in that week's GEM which is available online and in print every Thursday.

Inbox us your answer and contact details.

Every week a winner is chosen at random and will have £25 to spend with any advertiser in that week's GEM!

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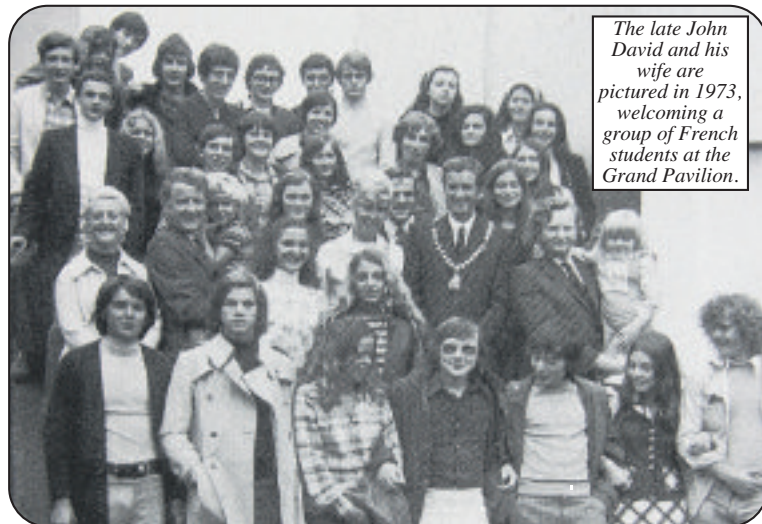
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Local man's service to the community commemorated



The late John David and his wife are pictured in 1973, welcoming a group of French students at the Grand Pavilion.

RIGHT: Coun John and Mrs Audrey David in 1974 when John was the last chairman of the old Porthcawl Urban District Council and Audrey was his consort. Audrey and John met at one of the Grand Pavilion dances and, as a result, went on to enjoy 50 years plus of happy marriage.



ABOVE: Coastguard John David and Police Sergeant Hugh Pritchard with Lada Niva four-wheel drive Coastguard Vehicle, John Street, Porthcawl, 1990.

IN last week's GEM, we published an obituary for Mr John David. At the funeral last week, which took place in St John's Church, Newton, and then at Coychurch Crematorium, Standards were presented for the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion and the Porthcawl Coastguard, in recognition of his service for both organisations.



Bunny Run for charity

RESIDENTS are being urged to support Welsh Hearts by joining hundreds of Easter Bunnies and furry friends in The 5K Easter Bunny Run at Mermaid Quay, Cardiff Bay to raise funds for the charity.

"Join the Mad Hatter on this 5K run, walk, hop, jog, or cycle as you chase his carrot around Cardiff Bay with your speed enhancing bunny ears!

Prizes for the best fancy dress. Children welcome under 18 with their families!" a spokeswoman said.

There will be prizes for the best fancy dress and Easter bonnet competition. Meet on Sunday, April 13 at The Oval Basin, Cardiff Bay in front of The Wales Millennium Centre.

Registration from 9.15am. Warm-up at 10.45am, race starts at 11am. Entry £5 per person.

Register online www.welshhearts/easter-bunnyrun.org.

Pictures by Keith E Morgan



'Sign up for Atlantic College-TRWN 10k Run to help research into cystic fibrosis!' Team Running with Nancy back on home soil for latest race...

OVER the past 18 months Llantwit Major's 'Team Running with Nancy' comprising Lyn, Lucy and Nancy Thomas – and friends – has taken part in races in Wales and England, to raise funds for cystic fibrosis research.

Lyn even had to fight a campaign against over-bearing health and safety rules to allow him to push his daughter Nancy in a buggy during runs.

Now TRWN, Team Running with Nancy, has been offered the chance of fund-raising on home soil.

On Sunday, March 16 at 11am, runners will be under starters orders for the 'Atlantic College-Team Running With Nancy 10K Race'.

The race will start and finish in the historical and picturesque setting of St Donat's Castle, the home of UWC Atlantic College, with the fast, undulating course taking in the scenic villages of Marcross, Monkash and Broughton.

Wheelchair racers are welcome and will start just before 11am.

Atlantic College has held the race for over 10 years and its students train alongside TRWN.

Lyn said: "When UWC Atlantic College generously offered us the

opportunity to have our own race, we jumped at it.

"Lucy and I live in Llantwit Major, so the race is very much a 'local' thing and the community has really got behind us.

"We have loved running with the students and lecturers at the college who are from all over the world and we have made some incredibly supportive friends there.

"It has been lovely to share our experiences on our weekly runs and we have also been able to raise their awareness of cystic fibrosis which is one of our main aims as a team.

"When Nancy was diagnosed with CF we were advised by a father who had an adult child with CF that the best way to ensure her long term lung health was to 'run with Nancy, and when she's tired and wants to stop, hold her hand, and run some more'.

"We took the advice to heart and formed Team Running with Nancy to enter races all over the country to raise awareness and funds for the CF cause."

The entry fee is £15 and the race is chip timed.

An organiser said: "Proceeds from the race will go to the UK Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapy Consortium.

"All runners are welcome, from

casual joggers to elite athletes, so come on guys, dust off those trainers and come join the fun!

"It's going to be a great family occasion and with over a hundred Atlantic College students taking part, there's going to be plenty of atmosphere."

Race sponsor, south Wales businessman and Cowbridge resident, Mike Cuddy praised Lyn and Lucy as "quality, big-hearted people who have an exemplary attitude in their approach to the challenges they face as parents".

He pointed out: "They and their precious little girl, Nancy, are inspirational characters, and it is a privilege to help them achieve their goals – and, along with UWC Atlantic College, to partner with them in the TRWN 10K.

"The setting for race day couldn't be better and with all the preparations going well, it's going to be a wonderful occasion."

For more information and to avoid missing out, register your place : www.runningwithnancy.com/event ; or go to : www.atlanticcollege.org/uwc-atlantic-college-10k-2014/

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Mr Gumpy a hit with Oldcastle Primary pupils



THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, was invited to be guest reader at the Reading Café morning at Oldcastle Primary School last week.

The Café is an initiative run by Bridgend County Borough Council's family engagement officer at several schools across the borough. Parents of children in the reception class are invited into school to listen to a story with their child and then they carry out a related craft activity together.

The MP reported:

"What a pleasure to read a story to a dozen reception children with their parents at Oldcastle. The children gathered around and were very involved in the story of Mr Gumpy's Motor Car which was a great success.

"They all enjoyed the story, especially when one child was appointed Mr Gumpy to drive the car and all the others climbed into the car to have a ride, hypothetically of course! Chaos and much laughter ensued.

"The Reading Café morning was well attended by parents and grandparents with their

children, chatting and having coffee and then enjoying the activity after. I met and talked with everyone after and was impressed with their joint activity drawings.

"Following the story I had a tour of the school and their new extension with Jeremy Thompson the headteacher and Sue Prosser deputy head.

"I listened to some pupils learning to speak Welsh and met with pupils in their IT suite who were researching the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration for valour in the face of the enemy.

"On leaving, I gave the pupils a task to research how many Victoria Crosses have been awarded to people around Bridgend and across Wales, and to let me know what they find out," the MP added.

Tom Stroud explained: "Tazio is at the forefront of a huge, worldwide change in the way companies are interviewing and assessing candidates."

Accelero Digital Solutions Ltd is a software development house. Kelvin Jones, managing director of Accelero said: "We believe that good software should be engineered, our EnGenio product allows developers to focus on understanding the requirements, instead of spending the majority of their time programming."

Local companies in line for top industry awards

TWO Bridgend-based companies are in the running for an award celebrating excellence in the electronics and software technology industry in Wales.

Tazio and Accelero Digital Solutions Ltd are two of three finalists for the Innovative Software Product of the Year category at this year's ESTnet Awards.

Tazio has developed an automated video interview platform. Director

PACT meetings

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT, March 3 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.
BRYNCEITHIN PACT, March 5 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.
ABERKENFIG/PENYFAI PACT, March 10 at Aberkenfig social Club at 7pm.
LLANGEINOR PACT, March 12 at The Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.
NANTYMOEL/OGMORE VALE PACT, March 12 at Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel at 7pm.
YNYSAWDRE PACT, March 13 at Ynysawdre Community Centre at 6pm.

M A E S T E G EAST/WEST PACT, March 17 at Cwm Calon Day Centre at 6pm.
PONTYCYMER/BLAENGARW PACT, March 17 at the Garw Valley Leisure Centre at 6pm.
BETTWS PACT, March 20 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.
CORNELLY PACT, March 20 at Cornelly Primary School at 6.30pm.
PYLLE/CEFN PACT, March 20 at the Talbot Institute, Kenfig Hill at 6.30pm.
CAERAU PACT, March 31 at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.



ABOVE: Making progress at Abercridin.

The Abercridin primary adopts new approach!

A revolutionary approach to literacy is helping pupils at Abercridin Primary School make rapid progress with their reading, writing and spelling, a BCBC spokesperson reports.

Since the 'Read Write Inc' literacy programme was implemented less than 18 months ago, pupils have made such rapid improvements that the small primary school, which serves the former mining communities of Evanstown and Gilfach Goch, is being heralded as a flagship school for Bridgend county borough.

Several other local schools also follow the Read and Write Inc method, and teachers from schools across the area are welcome to visit Abercridin every Wednesday to see the Read Write Inc programme in action.

Developed by education expert Ruth Miskin, Read Write Inc is a

ground-breaking approach to teaching children how to decode the sounds that make up words. Lessons are fast-paced and involve the whole class, keeping concentration levels high, and a mascot called Fred the frog is also used to help make lessons even more fun.

The approach has been adopted in more than 5,000 schools worldwide and the impact at Abercridin has been amazing. Headteacher Helen Gentle said: "After researching Read Write Inc, I was convinced that the programme would raise standards in reading, writing and behaviour at our school.

"After our staff were trained in the summer of 2012, they felt truly inspired, buzzing and raring to go. We initially introduced the phonic side of the programme into the foundation phase, but have now introduced the second part into the juniors in key stage two as well."

TY ELIS CHARITY HEARTENED BY A FUNDRAISER

Tŷ ELIS's first St Valentine's celebration was a heart-warming success and raised over £600 for the charity at the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl.

Edwina White MBE co-founder and trustee said: "It was just wonderful to see so many people turn up and support us. I would like to thank Friends of Tŷ Elis who put so much time into making the night a great success".

Mr Mike Clarke, Mayor of Porthcawl commented: "Tŷ Elis is a charity in Porthcawl that south Wales can be really proud of, but it doesn't always get the recognition it deserves because of the confidential nature of the service provided. I really hope Tŷ Elis can build on this success".

More than 100 people came along to the event where there was entertainment provided by Porthcawl Male Voice Choir and Rebecca Hurn. There was also dancing to music provided by the Hi-Tide.

Tŷ Elis has more than 30 volunteer counsellors and psychotherapists and 13 volunteer receptionists. Its counselling service is available to clients from across south Wales.

Tŷ Elis has no formal funding arrangements with the NHS or local authorities and depends on donations. The Friends of Tŷ Elis are a local fundraising group.

If you would like to join The Friends, become a volunteer receptionist, or a volunteer counsellor, contact Tŷ Elis on 01656 786486.

HB

A novice surfer is rescued by lifeboat on a busy Saturday

PORHCRAWL'S RNLI Rose of the Shires, was launched at 9:25am on Saturday (February 22) to aid a fishing craft with engine failure and a capsized dinghy a quarter of a mile east of Porthcawl Breakwater.

The volunteer crew were then diverted to a second call when a surfer was reported in danger of being swept out of Sandy bay.

The small fishing boat was taken in tow and returned safely to Porthcawl's new marina where Porthcawl Coastguard Unit confirmed that the casualties on board were ok.

The RNLI's Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat then returned to sea and located the capsized dinghy.

During the return tow and just within the shelter of the breakwater, a surfer was reported calling for help.

"The decision was made to immediately release the tow and go to the assistance of the surfer," said Helmsman Simon Emms.

"Crewman Etienne Cronje man-

aged to swim onto the slipway with the tow line and with the aid of shore helpers, the upturned dinghy was pulled safely into the marina.

"We located the surfer who was caught in a rip current and being swept alongside the Eastern Promenade wall towards the breakwater. We managed to get the male surfer on board the lifeboat and returned him to the station".

Back in the safety of the lifeboat station, the surfer explained that it was his first attempt at surfing; unfortunately it had turned out to be a frightening experience.

Spokesman Ian Stroud said: "We have been to the assistance of several surfers and swimmers who have been caught in the rip current alongside Eastern Promenade in the past 18 months.

"The water flow appears to have changed, causing these incidents in this part of Sandy Bay. We would ask all swimmers and surfers to be aware of this change to what is normally regarded as a safe beach for water sports".

Ryan is National Chef of Wales!

MAESTEG-based chef Ryan Jones was this week chosen as National Chef of Wales in a final at Coleg Llandrillo, Rhos-on-Sea.

He plans to use the £2,000 prize money to pay off the balance on his wedding to hairdresser Rebecca Colston on April 19. The couple who have a son, Jack (aged six), are renovating a house in Maesteg.

He began a new job two months ago as a creative development chef at Fei Foods Limited, Llansamlet, Swansea.

"I thought I was going to have a heart attack when the result was announced," said Ryan.

"After finishing third in this competition two years ago, I wanted to win it this time and I was very happy with my dishes. I put a lot of work into them, as there were lots of different elements.

"It means everything to me to win the National Chef of Wales because it's a great achievement. Ever since I was 16, when Doug Windsor won the competition, I have wanted to compete."

He confessed that his confidence was dented when he didn't win the regional heat in south Wales, but was given a second chance when selected for the final as one of the two best runners-up from the two heats.

He praised his commis chef, Dean Way, a lecturer at Cardiff Metropolitan University and other senior chefs, including Kurt Fleming, for lifting his spirits and encouraging him to 'go for it' in the final.

Ryan's menu opened with a starter of saddle of hare with spelt and barley risotto, wild



National Chef of Wales winner Ryan Jones celebrates with fiancée Rebecca Colston.

mushrooms and Jerusalem artichokes. Main course was dethiod of Gower saltmarsh lamb - rack, en croûte, shank and liver - and his dessert was chocolate textures and passion fruit.

The bi-annual competition is organised by the Culinary Association of Wales and sponsored by the Welsh Government, Unilever Food Solutions, Hybu Cig Cymru/ Meat Promotion Wales.

Runner-up was Jack Davison, 22, from St Tudno Hotel, Llandudno who received a cheque for £1,000.

Joint third were two chefs from the Celtic Manor Resort: Michael Bates and Karl Jones-Hughes, executive head chef Bates, is also chef patron of the award-winning White Hart Village Inn, Llangybi. Jones-Hughes lives in Narberth, Pembrokeshire.

The four chefs were given three hours to cook a three-course dinner for four, using ingredients predominantly

produced in Wales. The dessert was devised from a mystery box of ingredients that the chefs were shown an hour before the final.

Culinary Association of Wales president Colin Gray revealed that only seven points had separated the four chefs. "It was a very difficult job for the judges because it was a very close competition. In the end, it came down to little things, not just taste and flavour."

The judges, chaired by Welsh National Culinary team manager Graham Tinsley, were Gray, Terry Woolcock and Stuart McLeod.

The final was held on the eve of the three-day Welsh International Culinary Championships at Coleg Llandrillo, which attracts chefs from across the UK. High-lights of the three-day event are the Battle for the Dragon contest, which brings together regional teams from north, mid and south Wales and the Cake Cymru show.

facebook.com/glamorgangem



For more information visit
www.scorpionsrl.com. IG

Scorpions are set to entertain the Stags

SOUTH Wales Scorpions have been drawn at home to fellow Championship 1 side Hemel Stags in the third round of the Tetley's Challenge Cup.

The tie is expected to be played on Sunday, March 16, at Maesteg RFC with a 3pm kick-off.

New Scorpions coach Mike Grady was pleased that his side have a home game: "Anyone we would be facing in this round would be tough," he said. "But at least we're at home and it's someone in our division so we're in with a chance."

For more information visit
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Happy St David's Day!



'BE CHEERFUL AND KEEP YOUR FAITH!' Welsh patron saint's appeal should be remembered on his special day

ON March 1 each year we celebrate our patron saint, Dewi Sant or St David, who died on that day in 589AD.

To mark the day, Welsh people around the world wear one or both of our national emblems – a daffodil or leek – and celebrate at special concerts and processions.

This year, St David's Day falls on a Saturday.

Dewi was educated in Cardiganshire and then went on pilgrimages, founding religious centres across Wales and England,

including one at Glastonbury.

He even travelled as far afield as Jerusalem, where he was made an archbishop.

He eventually settled at Glyn Rhosyn (now St Davids) in west Wales, where he established a religious community.

Many miracles have been attributed to him. The most incredible being when he caused the ground to rise beneath him when preaching so that everyone could see and hear him.

As he prepared for death, David told his devoted followers to:

"Be cheerful and keep your faith and belief, and do the little things that you have heard and seen through me."

The cathedral of St Davids in Pembrokeshire, where his remains are buried, became a popular place of pilgrimage.

It was said that two pilgrimages to St Davids equalled one to Rome, and three equalled one to Jerusalem.

Dathlu Gw l Ddewi a'r Gymraeg...

BOB nos Lun gall Cymry Cymraeg a dysgwyr hyderus ddod i ddysgu sgiliau newydd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yng Nghanolfan Addysg Oedolion a Chymunedol Palmerston, Y Barri. Ceir dosbarth canu, gweithdy crefftau a chywthnosol, a chwbl llyfrau, cyfrifiaduron a cheffft addurno teisennau yn fisol.

NEWYDD: Ym mis Mawrth bydd dosbarth Gwella'ch Cymraeg yn dechrau, sy'n arbennig ar gyfer cyn-ddisgylion ysgolion Cymraeg a hof-

fai fagu hyder ac ailgydio yn yr iaith. Hefyd i ddod: Hel Achau, Crefft Gwŵio, Drama a mwyl. Dewch i gael blas ar ein menter Gymraeg a mwynhau cerddoriaeth a sgwrs ar Fawrth 3ydd yn ein dathliad Gwyl Ddewi!

Celebrate St David, in Welsh!

WELSH speakers and learners are enjoying new opportunities to learn through the medium of Welsh at Palmerston Adult and Community Learning Centre in Barry every

Monday evening. Singing in Welsh, craft workshops and coffee and chat run weekly, and once a month there is a book club, board games, computing and cake decorating.

NEW in March: Improve your Welsh - a course especially aimed at former pupils of Welsh medium schools who wish to reconnect with the language and gain confidence.

Also to come: Trace your Ancestry, Sewing and Dressmaking, Drama and more! Come and see for yourself and enjoy music and activities on March 3 in St David's celebrations.

THE EERIE SOUND OF PHANTOM SINGING ON ST DAVID'S DAY

MARCH was originally the first month on the calendar year prior to the introduction of the Julian and New Style Gregorian calendar in 1752.

It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, from the Roman word Martius.

Meteorologically, the first day in March is the beginning of the spring season: whereas the March equinox on 20/21 marks the astronomical birth of spring.

The birth flowers of March are the daffodil, jonquil and narcissus, which is a wild daffodil. They all symbolise rebirth, happiness and friendship. Narcissus (also known as the lily crocus) comes from Greek mythology and was named after a boy of the same name who was cruelly transformed into a flower.

The gemstone for this spring month is aquamarine, which comes from the Latin word aqua meaning water. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors and sea voyagers. Its tranquil colour is said to encompass the body with calm and levelheadedness.

March's second birthstone is the bloodstone, a darkish green jasper with red spots of iron oxide. The star signs of March are Pisces (until 22nd) and Aries.

A familiar poem to many is William Wordsworth's *Daffodils*; a poem my mother taught me as a child as she adored this particular spring flower: "I wandered lonely as a cloud That floats on high o'er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils; Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."

March, as with other

months of the year, holds an array of festival days, which begins with our Patron Saint David on the 1st.

The Welsh traditionally celebrate his life with singing, concerts, parades, the wearing of leeks or daffodils and dressing in traditional Welsh costumes.

The daffodil became a popular Welsh symbol in the 19th Century, when David Lloyd George displayed it at the 1911 Investiture and official publications.

March 15 relates to the *Ides of March* from the Roman calendar, a date when the month was divided into two equal parts. It was also the date on which Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44BC.

St Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17 in Ireland. He is their Patron Saint and March 25 is known as Lady Day, which is the feast of the Annunciation. Superstition states that if Easter was to fall upon this date, disaster would follow soon.

A date that is more recently added as a special day is Purple Day, which aims to raise awareness and funds for epilepsy, and is observed on March 26.

Mothering Sunday falls on March 30 this year – which is the fourth Sunday of Lent and has traditions dating back to the 16th Century. It was a special day when mothers throughout the land would be presented with spring flowers at church services by their children, to thank them for all of the care and love they have given them throughout the past year. Today we celebrate it in similar style.

During bygone times, Oranges and Lemons Day was a celebration on March 31, when children would recite the

nursery rhyme in churches, sometimes ringing hand bells as entertainment.

They would then be presented with an orange and a lemon after the service around a table in the church grounds.

March is known as the windy month with a traditional proverb from Weatherlore: March Winds, April Showers, Bring forth May flowers.

Another saying which does not fill us with hope for the months ahead states: As it rains in March, so it rains in June.

The final three days in March were said to have been borrowed from April, an old custom relating to the lending of sheep.

Traditional games played for hundreds of years throughout Lent include marbles and skipping. Marbles traditionally came in the form of hazelnuts, cherry stones, pebbles, round balls of baked clay or eggs which were rolled until the stroke of midnight on Good Friday.

Wales is shrouded with tales of folklore, mystery and ghosts, and the month of March maintains this tradition:

At the dead of night on March 1 (St David's Day) the eerie sound of phantom singing can be heard bellowing out from churches across the land. People who hear this are said to be surrounded by luck for the year ahead.

The first full moon of spring seems to attract serene images of a ghostly army marching aimlessly along country roads. Carrying glowing torches of fire, their silhouettes disappear into oblivion.

After the ferociousness of winter, on misty mornings in March, the hazy image of a stricken ship can be seen around the coast of Porthcawl.

Said to resemble a galleon, this creepy ship only appears every 10 years. Perhaps this disturbing image is making the living aware of its fate on the anniversary of its sinking.

Fact or fiction? It's up to you to decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS

'MAKE ST DAVID'S DAY A BANK HOLIDAY IN WALES'

A NEW handbook released in time to celebrate St David's Day encourages its readers to put pressure on the Government to make Wales' national day a bank holiday.

Gwnewch y Pethau Bychain - Do the little things (Y Lolfa) contains hundreds of little ideas, with far-reaching consequences, that everyone can do to ensure a Wales of which they are proud.

The book's title is inspired by the patron saint of Wales' most remembered message: "Do the little things that you have seen and heard from me."

St David's Day has been a national festival in Wales since the 18th century, and is still marked with gusto.

"We should put pressure on the Government to make St David's Day a bank holiday, and should be celebrated as prominently as Bastille Day is in France," reads an extract from the handbook, which has been edited by Ffion Heledd Gruffudd, Welsh Language Officer at Cardiff Council.

"The inspiration for this book was yet another conversation about the fate of the Welsh language and Welsh identity and the obvious need to do something in order to address the situation," explains Ffion.

"Why should we wait for the politicians and our government to take a stand, while witnessing the decline and becoming more frustrated?"

"It was time to stop talking and take action, so I decided to write a book to help us play a part today, now – while we wait."

"Welsh speakers, non-Welsh speakers, newcomers and the old faithful, this book is relevant to all of us here in Wales, the ones who love this country, who want to see the language thriving and our sense of national pride increasing."

From supporting Welsh businesses to tweeting or starting conversations in Welsh, the handbook is packed with useful advice to support all things Welsh.

For example, if every Cardiffian who identified themselves as being Welsh in the last Census adopted just one of the book's ideas, 60 per cent of the capital's cars would have a Welsh dragon sticker on them!

"It's a great pleasure for me to support 'doing the little things' for the Welsh language," says leading international rugby referee, Nigel Owens.

"Some have been unhappy with the fact that I speak Welsh with the players, but I'm only doing what comes naturally to me. It would be great if we could get more coaches and players to teach rugby in Welsh."

St. David's Day Family Funday

Saturday 1st March 11am - 3pm

Palmerston Community Learning Centre
Cadoc Crescent, Barry, CF63 2NT

Come along to celebrate play in Wales with lots of free play opportunities for all the family.

For more information please contact:
The Play Development Team on:
01446 764869 OR
playdevelopment@valuedglamorgan.gov.uk

This event is funded by Welsh Government.

Ten years on, male voice choir returns to the Tabernacle!

A SPECIAL concert celebrating St David's Day will raise funds for the Living Room Cardiff.

It will feature Côr Meibion Taf Male Voice Choir and will be held at Tabernacle Welsh Baptist Chapel in the Hayes, Cardiff, on Friday, February 28 at 7.30pm.

Côr Meibion Taf was formed in 2004 by Rob Nicholls when around 20 men gathered in the same Tabernacle Chapel, The Hayes, Cardiff, with the intention of establishing a Welsh medium male choir in the capital city.

Since its inception, the choir has grown to include over 70 members, with many of the original crew remaining within its

rank.

It has won first prize at the National Eisteddfod on two occasions, and performed many times on radio and television in Wales and abroad. The choir appeared on Spanish television while on tour there in 2011.

It is regularly invited to perform in concert for various charitable causes, and has sung many times at the Millennium Stadium as the invited choir before international rugby matches.

It has appeared on stage at the Royal Albert Hall, London as part of the bi-annual London Welsh Festival of Male Chorus.

Wynford Ellis Owen, chief executive, Living Room Cardiff, said: "I am extremely grateful to Côr Meibion Taf Male Voice

Choir for their readiness to perform as part of what promises to be a very special fundraising event in aid of the important work of Living Room Cardiff."

The Living Room Cardiff, based in Richmond Road, is a community-based recovery centre that has an "all addictions" approach and welcomes anyone who needs support taking that first step towards recovery or wanting to maintain their ongoing recovery.

Living Room Cardiff also provides and support for family members, partners and friends who have been affected by these addictions.

Tickets are priced at £5 and available to purchase from the Living Room Cardiff on 029 2049 3895 or at the door on the night.

Côr Meibion Taf yn dychwelyd i'r Tabernacl ar ôl deng mlynedd er budd Stafell Fyw Caerdydd

MAE cyngerdd arbennig ar y gweill i ddathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi a fydd yn codi arian i Stafell Fyw Caerdydd. Cewch fwynhau noson yng nghwmni Côr Meibion Taf yng Nghapel y Tabernacl, yr Ais, Caerdydd ar nos Wener Chwefror 28ain am 7.30pm.

Ffurfiwyd Côr Meibion Taf yn 2004 gan Rob Nicholls pan gasglodd ugain o ddyddion at ei gilydd yng Nghapel y Tabernacl, yr Ais, Caerdydd gyda'r bwriad o sefydlu Côr Meibion Cymraeg yn y brifddinas. Ers hynny, mae'r côr wedi tyfu i gynnwys mwy na saith deg o aelodau, ac mae nifer o'r criw

gweiddiol yno o hyd.

Maent wedi emill y wobwr gyntaf yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ddwy waith ac maent wedi perfformio ar y radio a'r teledu droeon yng Nghymru a thramor. Ymddangosodd y Côr ar deledu Sbaen pan oeddent yn teithio yno yn 2011.

Mae Côr Meibion Taf yn derbyn gwahoddiad yn rheolaidd i berfformio mewn cyngherddau er budd achosion elusennol o bob math. Maent wedi canu nifer o weithiau yn Stiadiwm y Mileniwm fel côr gwadd ar ddechrau gemau rygbi rhyngwladol ac maent wedi perfformio ar lwyfan y Royal Albert Hall yn Llundain yn rhan o Wyl Corau Meibion Cymry Llundain.

Meddai Wynford Ellis Owen, Prif Weithredwr, Stafell Fyw Caerdydd: "Rwy'n hynod o ddi-

olchgar i Gôr Meibion Taf am eu parodrwydd i berfformio yn y cyngerdd sy'n addo bod yn noson godi arian arbennig iawn er budd gwaith pwysig Stafell Fyw Caerdydd."

Mae Stafell Fyw Caerdydd, ar Ffordd Richmond, yn ganolfan adferiad yn y gymuned sy'n derbyn a chroesawu pobl â chaethi-wed o unrhyw fath sydd angen cefnogaeth i gymryd y cam cyntaf tuag at wellhad neu sydd eisiau dal ymlaen i wella.

Hefyd, mae Stafell Fyw Caerdydd yn croesawu ac yn cynghori a chefnogi aelodau teulu, partneriaid a chyfeillion unrhyw un sydd â chaethi-wed o'r fath.

Pris y tocynnau yw £5 ac maent ar gael i'w prynu o Stafell Fyw Caerdydd ar 029 2049 3895 neu gallwch eu prynu ar y drws ar y noson.

LLANTWIT UNDER-9S ARE BACK IN ACTION

AFTER a two week break due to bad weather, Llantwit Major under-9s were back on the pitch, hosting Bridgend Sports RFC and Llanharan RFC.

The first game was against a strong Bridgend Sports outfit. Both sides were defending their line well with amazing tackles put in by Llantwit's Iwan and Sam A but Bridgend Sports were first to break through and score.

Llantwit played well defensively, keeping on the ball, pushing the play back, and forcing an error from Bridgend allowing Sam H to intercept a pass and score Llantwit's first try.

Bridgend pushed Llantwit to defend hard as a team. Bridgend did

make another break through Llantwit's line to take the score to 2-1 only a few minutes before time.

Llantwit had a quick talk, then got back on the pitch. They pushed themselves, passing between players, making space for Sam H to get over the try line again, to bring the final score to 2-2.

The next match was against Llanharan. Llantwit started this match running hard, with Sam A, Logan and Sam H quickly scoring.

Llanharan made some great passes between their players, but Llantwit's defence worked hard and closed everything down.

Excellent tackles were played by Iwan and Josh, preventing Llanharan from scoring. Llantwit worked hard, passing between each

other, allowing tries to come from Josh and Dylan M.

Due to Llantwit's squad size, they were able to bring on fresh legs; this opened up the field making way for more tries from Josh, Sam A, Sam H and the game's final try coming from Corey in the last few seconds of the game. The final score was 10-0 to Llantwit; fantastic play from all players.

Man of the match was Iwan Thomas for his fantastic tackling and defensive work.

Squad: Iwan Thomas, Sam Harry, Sam Alexander, Tom Roberts, Logan Pike, Corey Lougher, Josh Wakeham, Dylan Wright, Dylan Morgan, Caleb Beare and, playing his debut match, Will Squance.

Netball teams make it through to regional final

THE Penarth Netball League, which is organised by the Vale Council's Dragon Sport Team in partnership with Welsh Netball, provides fun netball opportunities in a non-competitive environment to help the year 5 and 6 pupils develop their skills.

However, in the final few weeks, schools compete against each other to gain entry into the area finals competition run by Welsh Netball.

The first round of play-off matches were decided last week by goal differ-

ence, with Cogan progressing because of a superior goal difference over Evenlode, having battled through highly competitive matches between the two schools and Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth.

The second round of play-off matches were between St Andrew's Major, Albert and Victoria Primary Schools.

It all came down to the last match between St Andrew's and Victoria, with the latter coming out victorious, 5-2.

The two winning schools, Victoria Primary and Cogan Primary, will now represent the Vale in the regional final competition on April 8 at Cardiff University's Talybont Sports Campus.



Action from the Penarth Netball League.

Barry darts round-up



Gillian Edwards and Dianne Bushen.

PREMIER league leaders, the Cwm Talwg, suffered a surprise upset this week, losing 5-4 away to the Dartonians.

Wayne Harris hit a 108 outshot during the match. BFC Allsorts went to the top of the league with a 8-1 victory over the Billy Ghosts, Nick Price hitting a 180.

The Plastics C were away to the Park Weasels, where they had a narrow 5-4 victory even though they were a player short.

The Poachers kept up the pressure on the leaders with a 7-2 win over the Windsor Nomads, Jon

Hurn, Richie Williams and Gareth Owens all hitting 180s during the game.

In the First Division, the Throws of Despair extended their lead at the top with a 6-3 win over Pat's 26s; Chris Lawday hit a 180 and 117 out shot and Emma Williams hit her first competitive 180 and 80 out shot.

On Friday, February 14, Gillian Edwards won the ladies singles for the second year running. Gill beat Dianne Bushen in the final so congratulations to both ladies and thanks to all who turned up on the night.

RL

The Assembly helps 221 ex-Remploy workers find jobs

TWO years after the UK Government closed the Remploy factories, the Welsh Government has said it has helped 221 former employees to find new jobs.

The nine Remploy

sites in Wales used to employ an estimated 400 people before moves to close the factories in early 2012.

In response, the Welsh Government established the Employer Support Grant (ESG) scheme to offer financial support for employers looking to provide work to eligible

disabled Remploy workers. The policy is supported with more than £2 million of funding.

An Assembly spokesperson said yesterday that latest figures show 221 former Remploy workers have now found new jobs with support from the grant.

The panel that decides who receives support has also approved 173 more posts, giving hope to those still searching for work.

New jobs were created in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea, and Porth.

A number of new enterprises, founded by disabled former Remploy staff, were also supported by the Welsh Government.

These include Accommodation Furniture Solutions Limited in Swansea and E-Cycle Limited in Porth and a number of small and micro enterprises.

Communities and Tackling Poverty Minister, Jeff Cuthbert, said:

"The UK Government's decision to close all the Remploy factories was the wrong decision at the wrong time for staff in Wales.

"That is why we took action to step in and help those who suddenly found themselves facing an uncertain future.

"It is great to see that with our support, 221 former Remploy workers now find themselves with new jobs in a range of businesses, from new start-up firms to small enterprises, demonstrating the spirit of Remploy staff and the commitment of the Welsh Government.

"Employers have praised our employer support grant for its accessibility and swift, transparent process.

"We will continue to work tirelessly to help all those affected by the closure of Remploy to find fulfilling and accessible employment," he said.



Dennis Mottram and Jane Brook.

The latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

February 18 – first, Bryn Gough and Dave Reed (66.67 per cent); second Peter Millar and Mark Rod-erick (62.50); third Kay Dyer and Noelle Bond (61.81).

Bryn and Dave also won on handicap Jane Brook and Denis Mottram were the winners of the Denis Mottram Trophy for mixed pairs.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. Telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

Scorpions to entertain Stags

SOUTH Wales Scorpions have been drawn at home to fellow Championship 1 side Hemel Stags in the third round of the Tetley's Challenge Cup.

The tie is expected to be played on Sunday, March 16, at Maesteg RFC with a 3pm kick-off.

New Scorpions coach Mike Grady was pleased that his side have a home game.

"Anyone we would be facing in this round would be tough," he said. "But at least we're at home and it's someone in our division so we're in with a chance."

South Wales Scorpions season tickets can be bought by going to www.scorpionsrl.com. Match tickets for their first game of the season when they entertain Oldham Roughyeds on Sunday, March 2, can also be bought.

IG

Pencoed RFC are frustrated with drawn encounter



Glen Hiscocks races over for a try.
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK



ABOVE: Marc Davies kicks for Pencoed while BELOW: Ieuan Watkins aims to block a Penlan kick.

THE match between Pencoed RFC and Penlan opened with Pencoed playing into a stiff breeze and good early defence kept the visitors out, hooker Ieuan Watkins winning a turnover to relieve pressure with the home side clearing to halfway.

Pencoed opened the scoring with a well worked try, half backs Tom and Marc Davies moving the ball from a scrumage for blindside wing Glen Hiscocks to split the Penlan midfield, and his angled run took him over from 45 metres.

The visitors were content to use the wind to make progress, and following a long kick into the home 22 by centre Steven Williams, brother of Welsh international Liam Williams, they got their opening try, skipper Bobby Scrine forcing his way over as a result of

their driving maul.

Penlan then took the lead, flanker Robert Green profiting from their well drilled lineout catch and drive, which Williams converted.

Williams and Davies then swapped penalties before the visitors picked up a yellow card some 10 minutes from the break, Pencoed were unable however to turn this advantage into points, and Penlan led 8-15 at the interval.

Pencoed lost scrum half Tom Davies injured early in the second half, full back Tom Cross taking over emergency duties at No 9.

Pencoed were finding it difficult to develop any continuity, losing their own ball at both lineout and scrum in key areas, before home No 8 Aaron Halse stole a Penlan throw to trigger off sustained pressure in the visitors' 22, where wing Scott Narbeth was almost worked clear out wide.

Penlan broke away on the interception, Cross

doing extremely well to race back and kill the ball, in all probability saving the match. Pencoed returned to the visitors' 22 where replacement Lewys Jenkins stretched the visitors defence with a long pass and Hiscocks took a pass back inside to race over. Davies converted to level matters at 15-15.

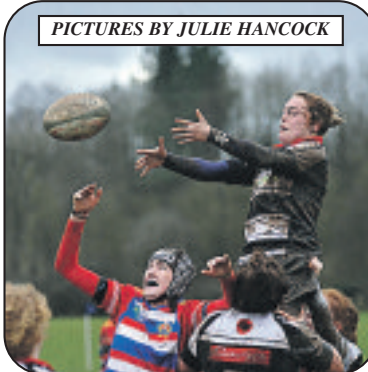
The Pencoed support endured anxious final minutes with the visitors threatening the home line, but to their credit the Pencoed defence held firm.

The Pencoed post-match debrief said it all, total frustration with their own performance, knowing full well they had allowed their visitors with a somewhat limited game plan to share the spoils, their frustrations compounded by the stop/start nature of the match, in some way due to the constant questioning throughout of the match official by the visitors.

On Saturday Pencoed travel to Pontycymmer in a Division 3 South West match, 2.30pm kick off.

TR

PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK



ABOVE LEFT: Amy Stevens and Nerys Lloyd try to stop a Pontyclun attack, while ABOVE RIGHT: Stonehouse, Trickey and Evans surround an opposition player.

PENCOED PHOENIX met Premiership side Pontyclun in the pool stages of the National Super Cup at their Woodlands ground, this their second Premiership opposition in seven days in this unforgiving top competition for senior women.

The visitors dominated territory in the opening quarter but the rearguard efforts of Phoenix kept them out, with Mel Clay, Kathryn Stonehouse and Sam Trickey all making gutsy tackles on their bigger opponents.

The Phoenix scrum was doing well, with Michaela Excel, hooker Lowrie Reeves and Becca Pope driving the big Pontyclun pack back from their own line to win the turnover, young Pope underlining her potential in her new

found position, then shortly afterwards getting back in defence to pull off a try saving tackle.

Phoenix centres Clay and Katie Murphy were defending admirably for their team but the visitors outflanked the home cover to set up a 14-0 lead with two converted tries.

Phoenix second rows Hannah Brunskill and Charlotte Mundy were as reliable a source of possession for their team as ever, to give the overworked Phoenix defence some respite, before Pontyclun kicked a penalty on the stroke of halftime to lead 0-17 at the interval.

Replacement Amy Stevens won a turnover in her own 22 early in the second half, before full back replacement Debra Evans pulled off a last ditch tackle to deny the visitors.

Relentless visitors' pressure brought them two early second

Phoenix are undone by Pontyclun's greater experience

LEFT: Charlie Mundy tries to break up a Pontyclun lineout.



half tries, Welsh international Gemma Hallett instrumental in both.

Pontyclun added a penalty before Phoenix enjoyed their best period of the match. Driving play from back row forwards Abbie Read and Nerys Lloyd took play into the visitors' half, where Trickey kicked a 35-metre penalty goal, just reward for the heroic defensive efforts of Phoenix for most of the match.

Pontyclun added a try from their left wing flier, before Pope saved a further visitors score in the dying seconds, getting back to kill a charge down under her own posts.

The badge of courage sported by Stonehouse after the match, an egg-sized swelling on her forehead, typified a courageous Phoenix performance against a far more experienced Pontyclun side.

TR

BRIDGEND SPORTS JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

UNDER-7S
Bridgend Sports 3, Llanharan 1; Bridgend Sports 5, Llantwit Major 1.

UNDER-8S
A new home, a new surface and the boys settled in extremely well in this game against Llantwit Major.

From the first whistle Sports were a constant threat in attack. Some great passing out of the tag and support play saw the Sports swiftly take a 3-0 lead with tries from Tom Chick, Callum and Ruben.

A good try from the visitors was then followed by some more sublime rugby with tries from Joel and Dylan. Llantwit scored their second (and last try) before Dylan completed a brilliant hat-trick by scoring two more tries through great support play again.

Final score Sports 7, Llantwit 2.

After a rampant display in the first game, again the Sports started the stronger team, immediately gaining a full six tags to recapture the possession.

Two great tries came from Cian John, after some nifty footwork and great angles of running. Llantwit scored two well worked tries of their own to level the game at 2-2.

With a smaller squad of 10, Sports seemed to tire a little

towards the end but continued to tag superbly. Another textbook Dylan Morgan surging run saw him cross for his fourth of the morning before a moment of brilliance from Ben saw him squeeze through for his first try for the club.

Llanharan scored the last try of the match and the Sports hung on valiantly at the end to secure a 4-3 victory.

UNDER-9S
The Sports competed in a round robin game with Llantwit Major and Llanharan at the grounds of Llantwit Major RFC.

The first game was against Llantwit with Sports showing renewed determination following the enforced winter weather break and buoyed by last week's win, soaking up repeated phases of play from Llantwit and getting little ball in the first few minutes but with neither team conceding any tries.

McKenzie opened the try scoring on behalf of Sports with a determined run for the line. Concentration slipped a little following this success and Llantwit immediately answered with a try of their own, and the first half closed 1-1.

This very evenly matched game started the second half with neither side conceding much of the pitch, with both sides putting in

some crunching tackles and short sharp bursts of running, with impressive running angles and few handling errors, and hardly any ball spilled.

Sports opened the scoring in the second half, and looked as if this might be enough to win the game; however Llantwit responded with a try close to the end of the match resulting in a final score of 2-2.

Following the game, Llantwit's coaching staff commented on the skill of our team, adding that Llantwit had lost hardly any games this season, and usually won by 10 or more tries. An impressive result.

The second game was against a depleted Llanharan side who gamely decided to play with only eight boys.

Sports opened the scoring with two determined team tries, scored by Sam and McKenzie. Llanharan answered with a try of their own, although the first half ended with a further try from Sports to finish the period 3-1 to the Sports.

The second half opened with another try from the Sports with Llanharan regrouping and scoring the next two. Sports continued to dominate this period of the game adding a further four tries to their tally without response from Llanharan. The game finished 8-3 in Sports favour, another fantastic game.

Sports continued to show their improvement this season with a minimum of ball handling errors and expansive running and passing.

Grouping is still an issue and the referee considered that a few tackles were a little high and suggested that one of the team should take a few minutes rest to consider the matter.

Apart from this, the games were a pleasure to watch and continue to show the progress that the boys are making.

MVP was awarded to Morgan Paletorpe who is a strong and determined carrier of the ball and who scored a great try today, a player that can always be relied upon to give his best; well done Morgan.

Squad: Fynn, Sam Barraclough, Oliver, Tristan, Shea, McKenzie, Morgan, Ryan, Logan, Daniel Hughes, Jacob, Max Harris, Cameron, Kurtis, Joe and Declan

UNDER-14S
The Sports claimed back to back wins for the first time this season with an impressive display against a well-respected Pontardawe side.

The Sports clearly took a lot of confidence from last week's emphatic win against Tondy and put in another buoyant performance this week.

The start of the game was fairly even with both sides having opportunities to open the scoring but the hosts were first to score when one of their players made a strong break from the 22 metre line to score under the posts.

However, from this point in, the Sports were the team who had the majority of the ball and they created sustained pressure in the Pontardawe half. The Sports came close to scoring on several occasions but were denied by a well organised Pontardawe defence.

However, before long, the Sports converted their continuous pressure into points when Pontardawe failed to secure the ball from a well-placed kick by the Sports scrum half Will Prosser. The ball then broke loose to Dewi Ronan who run into corner to score.

Halftime was then called with the Sports trailing 7-5 at the interval.

The Sports came straight out of the blocks for the second half and sneaked in front through Number 8 Callum Reape, who crashed over the line off the back of a penalty. Will Prosser then successfully converted the try to make the score 12-7 to the Sports.

Unfortunately for the Sports, against the run of play, Pontardawe quickly regained the lead through an excellent long

range try which originated from their own try line. The Sports now trailed by two points but once again the Sports showed superb fight and spirit to win the game.

With 10 minutes remaining the Sports were the dominant force in the Pontardawe 22 and they forced the home side into conceding several penalties.

After coming close to scoring on several occasions the Sports finally restored their well-deserved lead when second-row Aled Steele received the ball from a penalty and made a powerful run to score a vital try. Will Prosser then successfully converted the conversion.

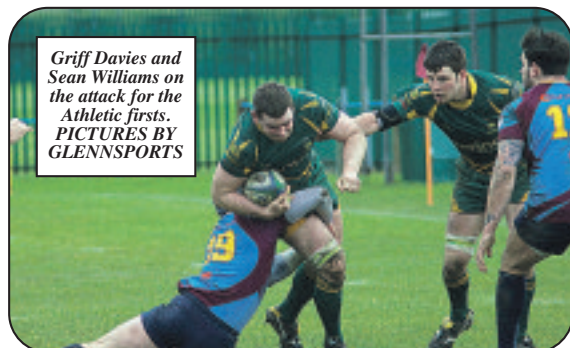
With the Sports high in confidence they still had time to score a further two tries. Callum Reape scored his second of the match when he broke off a scrum to touch down to the side of the posts. Will Prosser secured his third successful conversion of the match.

Sports substitute Theo made a positive impact by scoring his first try for the club in the last minute pitch to make the final score 31-14 to the Sports.

Overall the Sports deserved to win the match with another confident display and hopefully they can make it three wins on the trot this week.

JD

Athletic bounce back with impressive victory



Griff Davies and Sean Williams on the attack for the Athletic firsts. PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC coaches got the response they were looking for as the team bounced back from a humiliating Swalec Cup defeat at Carmarthen Quins with a gutsy display away to Tata Steel, culminating in a 22-18 victory.

The Athletic tactics were to play a high tempo game as Wales did against France, while Tata set out in Ireland fashion to negate the cutting edge of the Athletic with high up and unders and successive rolling mauls.

This saw a marked contrast in the three tries each team scored, with the Athletic's tries coming from moves at least 40 metres out, while Tata's were all from drives from five metre scrums or five metre line outs.

Scrum half Aled Thomas set the early tempo running three tap penalties into the Tata 22 with flanker Ben Howe in support – but all three inroads came to nothing.

Tata outside half Simon Evans – a former Athletic player – put his side on the offensive kicking a penalty to touch five metres from the Athletic line.

The lineup turned to a scrum and with the heavier Tata pack putting on a drive, No 8 Robbie Morgan picked up and fed wing Jonathon Skidmore to cross on the corner. Another former Athletic player, Lloyd Rogers, failed to convert.

Within three minutes

the Athletic responded. Full back Dan Howell safely gathered another high Garryowen on halfway and opened up play passing inside to scrum half Thomas.

Thomas skipped inside a defender and raced 40 metres to cross under the posts. Outside half Steven Lewis added the conversion to put his side 7-5 ahead.

The excellent Thomas took another quick tap penalty 10 metres inside his own half and made 20 metres before chipping towards the corner, where Athletic debutant wing Adam Fields showed a great turn of pace to gather and spin his way past his opposite wing to cross wide out. This put the Athletic 12-5 ahead. Lewis then added a 40-metre penalty to extend the lead to 15-5.

With the last move of the half, Tata, from another five metre scrum, turned possession into a maul and a series of close thrusts at the Athletic line finally saw prop Gareth Edwards dive over in the corner to reduce his side's halftime deficit to 15-10.

The second half was a carbon copy of the first with both sides adopting the same tactics and the larger Tata pack mostly monopolising possession and territory.

Despite Tata's weight advantage the Athletic front row of Rod Jones, Matt Muir, Simon Mustoe and replacement Huw Morris battled hard and No 8 Dan Apsee, often under pressure, picked up from the base of the scrum to maintain Athletic possession.

Lock Darren Deguerre

and flanker Sean Williams were very prominent in the tackle area while lock Griff Davies carried well. On the rare occasions Tata moved the ball they had no joy from a sound centre pairing of Chris Price and Ryan Owen, and wings Adam Fields and Tom Bluck, who all showed they could defend as well as attack.

On the hour mark the Athletic were penalised for a scrum infringement and Simon Evans reduced the deficit to 15-13. They were awarded another kickable penalty shortly after but elected to kick to the corner.

The Athletic on this occasion successfully defended their line. The home side were getting increasingly frustrated and were not averse to illegal use of the boot at rucks and hooker Darryl Harvey paid the penalty with a yellow card when he was caught illegally stamping at a ruck inside the Athletic 22.

With time running out and desperation creeping in, Tata tried moving the ball inside their own half.

The Athletic turned over possession and quick ball via Thomas, Lewis and Price saw the ball reach centre Ryan Owen.

Man of the match Owen had already made a number of half breaks – but on this occasion he scythed through the defence to give the supporting wing Adam Fields a well-timed pass to cross under the posts for his second try; Lewis added the conversion.

With the final move of the match from another five metre line out drive Gareth Edwards was forced over the line for his second try and a losing bonus point for Tata.

Team manager Paul Hearn summed up by saying: "This was an excellent Athletic win. The coaches got their tactics spot on, knowing Tata would not be able to live with the Athletic in a high tempo and high intensity game which the Athletic attempted to do on every opportunity we had – and this led to all three tries.

"In contrast Tata wanted to slow the ball down and were only really effective in rolling mauls and scrum time. The win comes at a crucial time in the season and



ABOVE: Adam Fields heads off to score the winning try while
BELOW: Man of the match Ryan Owen makes the break that led to Fields' try.



takes us to ninth place in the table – 12 points clear of the relegation places. We should be able to go into our next two home games against Beddau and Bargoed on the next two Saturdays with confidence," he added.

CLUB NEWS

Bridgend Athletic have rearranged the following Championship postponed fixtures:

Newbridge (home) – Bridgend Ford Brewery Field, Wednesday, April 30, kick off 7.15pm; Narbeth (home), Saturday, May 3, 2.30pm – location TBA;

Tondu (away), Thursday, May 8, kick off 7.15pm.

The club are also delighted with the fifth Wales cap and first start for Rhys Webb against France last Friday.

He certainly contributed to the much higher tempo Wales played at in this fixture and got very good press reviews and pundits comments on his performance. We are sure it is the first of many starts for Rhys.

Rhys played at all age levels from under-8 to under-16 level for Bridgend Athletic and went on to win a number of Wales under-18 Welsh caps from the club's youth team and helped them win both the Welsh youth cup and Welsh youth league.

Also, he has under-20 level Welsh caps from his subsequent promotion to

the Ravens, then Ospreys, squad, for who he has now played on 100 occasions. He has shown great determination to recover from a number of serious injuries to force his way back into the Welsh squad this season.

Rhys is a great and very popular person off the field and is currently helping train the Athletic youth team and attends games when his Ospreys commitments allow.

BRACKLA 7 BRIDGEND ATHLETIC SECOND XV47

Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV made it eight wins out of eight in the Mid Glamorgan District League with a 47-7 win at Brackla.

They have 343 league points for with 69 against, and passed the half-century of league tries, moving on to 51 tries with the seven scored at Brackla.

Wing Andrew Tyler led the way with a hat-trick with single touchdowns for No 8 Liam Griffiths, lock Harry Griffiths, and centre Kyle Dobbins and wing James Sidford. Outside half Tom Cole converted six of the tries to pass the century mark for the season with 109 points.

In all games the leading try scorers are William Williams with 13, Harry Griffiths with 10, Andrew Tyler with seven and Liam Griffiths with six.

AB

Tom Davies bursts past a Quins defender. PICTURES BY PETER GILLING



Quins put Kenfig out of the Plate

RIGHT: Jason Davies looks for support.

THIS game between Kenfig Hill RFC and Maesteg Quins, in round four of the SWALEC Plate, was fairly even at the start with Kenfig Hill coming close to scoring when outside half Nicky Giles crossed the line but winger Mike Kennedy caught the ball and crossed the line but was adjudged to have put a foot in touch.

The Quins came back and after a sustained attack, No 8 Andrew Healey crossed the line from a ruck close to the line, outside half Gareth Lewis converting.



The game continued at pace with both sides applying pressure. The Quins made a break from a retreating scrum and saw them go clear but Kenfig Hill left winger Shaun Burnell made a superb covering tackle to save the day for the Mules.

The halftime score was Kenfig Hill 0, Maesteg Quins 7.

Kenfig Hill had the lions share of possession in the second half but all they had to show for it was a penalty by outside half Nicky Giles.

The Quins came back in the dying minutes and scored a second try from a forward mêlée with Healey scoring his second try, the final score Kenfig Hill 3, Maesteg Quins 12.

For Kenfig Hill Ashley Lloyd gave a man of the match performance, with Steve Gillard playing well; Chris Tossell and Marc Fitzgerald stood out for the backs.

GOS

Scorpions coach pleased with win

SOUTH Wales Scorpions head coach Mike Grady was pleased to see his side run in 10 tries in their pre-season friendly win over feeder club Valley Cougars on Sunday.

The Scorpions won 58-16 and while Grady and his staff were happy with the majority of the game, he knows that his side's concentration in defence must improve before Oldham come to Maesteg RFC this Sunday (kick-off 3pm).

South Wales Scorpions season tickets can be bought by going to www.scorpionsrl.com, and match tickets for their first game of the season, when they entertain Oldham Roughyeds on Sunday March 2, can also be bought.

IG



ABOVE: Lewis David takes a tackle (and the opposing player!)

Bridgend bridge club results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, February 19: First Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, second Andrew Scott and Liam Sheridan, third Dave Barwood and Jane Brook.

Friday, February 21: First Tony Haworth and Robert Charlesworths, second Barrie Jenkins and Vanessa Beacham, third John Beard and Liam Sheridan.

The best placed improvers for Wednesday, February 13 were Colin Lewis, Stuart Davies, Norma Phinnemore and

Leila O'Hagan.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are most welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced and where assistance is readily available.

Lessons for improvers also take place on a Thursday at 2pm; to register an interest call either Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or John Evans 01656 880372.

DN



Tom Cole in action for the seconds. PICTURE BY GLENNSPORTS.



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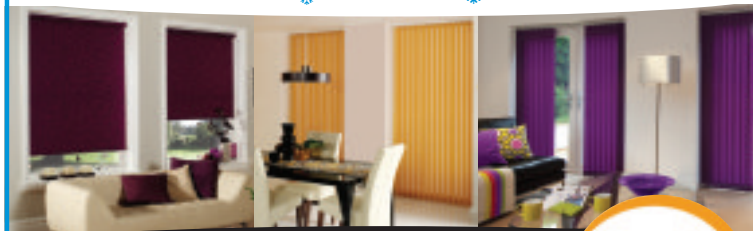
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Anniversaries

Family Notices

Birthdays

Golden Wedding Anniversary
Happy Anniversary to my husband
Graham Nash

On 2 March 2014
Lots of love always Anita
XXX



DEERE
Eleanor Maureen

Peacefully on 24 February 2014, Maureen of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved wife of the late Norman and loving mother of Paul & Phil, much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Funeral service on Monday 3rd March at 2.00pm in St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

Family flowers only, but donations may be made to St. Illtud's Church Fund c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

DAVIES
Edwina Rees

Peacefully on the 16th February 2014, in her 99th year, Edwina Rees, the dearly beloved wife of the late Emlyn Glyndwr (Glyn), formerly of Church Close, Llanblethian. Devoted mother of Roger Michael and Richard Alan, dear mother-in-law of Melanie, Hillary and the late Karin, loving gran of Lizann, Phil and Chris, cherished great grandmother of Benjie and Elodie. Edwina will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at Glanafan Court Funeral Home until funeral service Monday, 3rd March at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian at 2pm, followed by committal at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.

Family flowers please by request but donations if so desired to Ty Hafan (cheques only please) and all enquiries to Condon Funeral Service, 50 Margam Road, Margam, Port Talbot, SA13 2BN, tel 01639 883688.

Joan Lewis
Happy 90th Birthday
Mum on 1st March

Love from Dianne, Sheree, Andrea & Families
XXXX

The GEM
01446 774484

Public Notice

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Jason Paul Williams trading as J Williams International of 17 Ffordd Ddu, Pyle CF33 6JG is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at S&P Commercial, Village Farm Road, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle CF33 6BN.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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porthcawl-today.co.uk
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JONES
Doris Mary

Peacefully on Wednesday, February 12, Doris (aged 92 years) of Barry, devoted wife of the late Barrie, a wonderful, loving and generous mother, grandmother and great grandmother, who will be greatly missed by her loving family and friends.

Funeral service will take place on Friday, February 28 at Porthcawl Cemetery at 2pm. Further enquiries to Duncan Thomas of Evan E Thomas and Sons, Southlands Funeral Home, South Road, Porthcawl CF36 3DA. Telephone 01656 783383.

HOLLOWAY
Margaret Annette

Suddenly on February 17th, Margaret sadly passed away at A&E, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Beloved sister of Brian, Freda and John, loving auntie Mags to nephews and nieces.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday March 3rd, service and cremation 12.45pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations, if desired, to British Heart Foundation, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3EZ.

CLARK
Gordon Henry Thomas

Gordon passed away peacefully on February 18th 2014. Beloved husband to Rosemarie, father to sons Colin and Derek, father in law to Cathy and Carolyn, grandfather to Chloe and husband Martin and great grandfather to Ben & Sam.

Rest in peace.

The family would like to thank the staff at Llandough Hospital for the care and support they gave to Gordon during his passing days. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, March 4th, service 2.30pm at St Athan Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm. All are welcome to attend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Alzheimers Research UK c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

WILLIAMS
Roger

Suddenly on 14th February, Roger aged 81 years of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Pauline. He will be greatly missed by his loving family and many friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, Pembroke House, Llantwit Major until The Requiem Mass in Our Lady & St. Illtud Roman Catholic Church on Friday, 28th February at 1pm, afterwards to Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only please, if wished donations to either the British Heart Foundation or Cancer Research UK (cheques only please) c/o the funeral director.

HUISH
Pauline Gordon - 'Polly'
25/02/49-27/02/12

Treasured memories of our darling Polly, who we sadly lost two years ago today. Always in our thoughts and hearts, with love from all the family.

DAVIES
Betty Cynthia (née Garrett)

Peacefully in her sleep at the Ochil Nursing Home, Perth, Scotland on 23rd February 2014, aged 88 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Ernie Davies of 4 Andrews Court, Llantwit Major. Beloved mum of Yvonne, mother-in-law, grandmother and great granny. Service to be held in Perth Scotland, family flowers only.

PALLING
Clive (Topsy)

Suddenly at home on Wednesday, February 19 in Llantwit Major, Clive, much loved brother to Brenda and Angela, loving uncle to his nieces and nephews. Will be missed by all his friends and his dog Prince.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium, Thursday, March 6, 2014, at 11.30am.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers if desired to the British Heart Foundation.

MAYLE
Raymond John

Passed away peacefully after a bravely fought illness, beloved husband of Valerie, much loved Dad to Karen and Alun, a treasured Grandad to Joshua, Alice, Oliver, Lucy, Morgan, Megan and Nikita. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Funeral service on Thursday March 6, 2014, in St David's Church, Laleston at 2.45pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm.

Donations in lieu may be sent to either Parkinsons UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EJ, or Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, Room 182, 7th Floor, BC Link, Department of Haematology, School of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN.

All further enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend. Telephone 01656 653156.

P.G.H.
25.2.14

I've wandered to your resting place to leave you flowers with my love and care and whispered 'Happy 65th Birthday Polly' and hope you know Jack's been there.

But this is the day of memories we hold deep within our hearts, of the bestest sister who left us two years ago today, when the sadness came and tore our family apart.

Miss you more than ever,
Sandra and Keith xxx

LAMB
Anne Marjorie 'Nancy'

Passed away on January 29. Funeral services were held at Penmark Church on February 17.

The family of Nancy Lamb would like to thank everyone who provided flowers and attended her funeral service.

Your expressions of kindness and support during this difficult time are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Tim Chapman
on 28th February 2014

Best Wishes from all your friends at the GEM

Heather Parsons
on 28 February

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the loveliest, kindest mum, gran'ma, wife and friend anyone could wish for.

We love you so much.
xxx

Happy 70th Birthday
Denzal Baynham
on 27th February

Lots of love,
Shirley,
Gavin, Cerri & Kayleigh
xxx

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY
Jack Harding
on 27 February 2014

'Thanks for the family get-together!'

Love from Pat & Bert, Janet, Geoff, James & Sarah, Robert & Shannon, Alex & Ceri, Barbara, Alun, Lloyd & Rachel.
xxx

Rhys Turnbull
Happy 30th Birthday
on 27th February 2014

Love
Connie, Ellis, Charlie and Joey xxx

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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Public Notice

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS O DAN ADRAIN 119 DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBRAU TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 5, SAIN DUNWYD)
GORCHYMYN GWYR LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2013



Ar 17 Chwefror 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod.
Eiffaith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd, fydd ailgyfeirio'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus fel yr eglurwyd yn yr Atodiad ac y dangosir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn ar gael i'w hastudio'n rhad ac am ddim yn y cyfeiriad isod rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm, yn ystod yr wythnos o 27 Chwefror 2014 hyd 10 Ebrill 2014. Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a'r map ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 27 Chwefror 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holi ynghylch eilysurwyd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am nad yw o fewn pwerau Deddf Prifffyrdd, ynteu na chydymffurfioyd a gofynion y Ddeddf neu reoliadau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, caiff yr unigolion hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithdriad paragraph 5 Atodiad 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r Rhybudd yn gyntaf.

Dyddiedig 27 Chwefror 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC PATH NO.5 ST DONATS) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2013

On the 17th day of February 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 27th February 2014 until 10th April 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 27th February 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice is first published make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 27th day of February 2014

Director of Development Services
Dock Offices, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN (AC EITHRIO GORCHYMYN DIDDYMU HAWLIAU O DAN DDEDDF CAFFAEL TIR) DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 5, LARNOG)
GORCHYMYN GWYR LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014



Bydd y gorchymyn uchod, a wnaethpwyd ar 17 Chwefror 2014, o dan Adran 119 Ddeddf Prifffyrdd 1980, yn gwyro Llwyr Cyhoeddus Rhif 5 yn Larnog o gyfliniad A-B-C-D (rhwyng Cyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol 317830 168210 a Chyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol 317459 167846) i gyfliniad A-E-F (rhwyng Cyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol 317830 168210 a Chyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol 317536 168063) fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'u darparu, a chechw eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un. Cewch wneud sylwadau a'r gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy ysgrifennu llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 27 Mawrth 2014, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhydd i gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn yn ddilwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y Gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 27 Chwefror 2014

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER (OTHER THAN AN ACQUISITION EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 5 LAVERNOCK) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

The above order, made on the 17th day of February 2014, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert the Public Footpath No 5 Lavernock from the alignment A-B-C-D (NGR 317830 168210 to NGR 317459 167846) to the alignment A-E-F (NGR 317830 168210 to NGR 317536 168063) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 27th day of March 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 27th day of February 2014

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN (AC EITHRIO GORCHYMYN DIDDYMU HAWLIAU O DAN DDEDDF CAFFAEL TIR) DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBRAU CYHOEDDUS 1 (RHAN), 2 (RHAN) a 7 (RHAN) LLANILLTUD FAWR)
GORCHYMYN DIDDYMU LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014



Bydd y gorchymyn uchod, a wnaethpwyd ar 17 Chwefror 2014, o dan Adran 118 Ddeddf Prifffyrdd 1980, yn diddymu Llwyrbrau Cyhoeddus 1 (rhan), 2 (rhan) a 7 (rhan) Llanilltud Fawr sy'n rhedeg rhwyng Pwynt N (CGC 295510 167546) a Phwynt R (CGC 295562 167493); Pwynt A (CGC 295866 167415) a Phwynt S (CGC 295709 167441); a Phwynt T (CGC 295510 167546) a Phwynt P (CGC 295591 167569) fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a map y gorchymyn wedi'u gosod, a chechw eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50.

Cewch wneud sylwadau a'r gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy ysgrifennu llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 27 Mawrth 2014, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhydd i gadarnhau bod y gorchymyn yn ddilwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 27 Chwefror 2014

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER (OTHER THAN AN ACQUISITION EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PUBLIC FOOTPATHS NO 1 (PART), 2 (PART) & 7 (PART) LLANTWIT MAJOR PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER 2014

The above order, made on the 17th day of February 2014, under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980, will extinguish the Public Footpaths Nos 1 (part), 2 (part) & 7 (part) Llantwit Major running from Point N (NGR 295510 167546) to Point R (NGR 295562 167493); Point A (NGR 295866 167415) to Point S (NGR 295709 167441); and Point P (NGR 295510 167546) to Point P (NGR 295591 167569) as shown on the order map. A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 27th day of March 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 27th day of February 2014



Llantwit Major under-16s will be heading off to the Catalan region soon.

LLANTWIT UNDER-16s SHOW OFF TOUR KIT!

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-16s were presented with their tour kit before they head off to northern Spain to play two matches in the Catalan region.

The kit was presented to the squad by Andy Joy of Force Strength & Conditioning, who are one of the sponsors of the team.

The team would like to thank all those who have sponsored and supported them, and have made the tour possible.

The boys are bound to return with a lifetime's worth of stories to tell but all will be bound by the golden rule of tourists, "What goes on tour stays on tour".

TIM JONES

History on epic scale as Llantwit defeat Beaufort!

HISTORY continues to be made by the young Llantwit Major side that overcame visitors Beaufort to secure a place in the quarter final of the WRU SWALEC Bowl competition.

History had already been made by getting to the last 16 and it is with sheer delight that the journey continues.

When the draw was made, very little was known of Beaufort but due to inactivity through the inclement weather, coach Darren Joy was able to watch our opponents and this could have been crucial in taking the preparation up to another level.

Llantwit Major, in the same vein as Wales, had been extremely poor in their last game out and the coaching staff sought to put this right during two intense training sessions in the run up to the game.

The visitors, also a young side, came to Llantwit holding no fear as cup competitions are all about who performs on the day. The game started in a typical cup fashion with nerves on both sides as they tried to outwit each other.

Beaufort were by no means in awe of Llantwit who are in a higher division and sought to get the ball moving at every opportunity to their game maker at centre. Stern defence from Llantwit was the order of the day.

It was however, the

visitors who got on the scoreboard first by taking play into the 22 where a rolling maul could not be stopped and the visiting forwards drove over for a try that was converted.

In the past, an early try has seen Llantwit lose focus and forget the game plan but not on this occasion. There was no panic, just a steady resolve to put the score right. As the half drew to a close Llantwit pulled to a close Llantwit pulled from prolific points scorer Ryan Evans.

Just before halftime, Rob Carter received a yellow card and in a show of some consistency, two minutes later a Beaufort player also saw yellow for 10 minutes in the bin.

The final scoring of the half was by Beaufort as they slotted a penalty to lead 10-9.

The team talk at half-time was again simple, do the basics and the opportunities will come.

The second half saw Llantwit playing down the slope and with the wind at their backs. It was in the second half that the Llantwit pack began to get the upper hand until they were totally dominant.

It got to the point that it didn't matter who had the put in at the scrum because the pressure was such from the forwards that Llantwit generally came up with the ball, such was their ascendancy in this area.

The game continued at a pace and Llantwit finally broke the defence and with a two on one it

appeared that Llantwit took the wrong option by chipping over the top but on this occasion fortune favoured the brave and Laurence Howley crossed for a try that was converted by Ryan Evans.

The visitors, now looking devoid of ideas, gave away a number of penalties, one of which was converted from halfway line to give Llantwit a 19-10 lead.

To their credit Beaufort did not give up and gained a penalty of their own which they converted and gave the watching spectators a nervous 10 minutes.

However, Llantwit were not to be denied and quick line speed in defence meant Beaufort were caught on several occasions by the ferocity at the contact area.

Chris Fowler, Jack and Josh Austin were constantly forcing their opposite numbers into making mistakes.

Ryan Evans continued his rich vein of form and landed two further penalties to make the score a bit more comfortable for the home supporters.

Credit has to be given to Beaufort in that they came to play rugby and for a neutral it was an excellent advert for grass roots rugby.

It could be quite easy to say that the whole team deserved man of the match but on speaking with the coaches it was unanimous that on this occasion it would go to two players, Rob Carter and Richard Ingram.

A special mention has

to go to the coaching staff of Darren Joy, Graeme Williams, Dean Bunting and Simon Hill; the professionalism they show on and off the field preparing the team is second to none and something everyone involved in the club and the town should be proud of.

As the draw had already been made, Llantwit knew that they were due to face either Pyle or Cwmgor in the next round and this was confirmed as being Pyle. The quarter final will be held on Saturday, March 22, in Llantwit Major; mark it in your diary now to be part of the next chapter!

NE

Keen competition at Vale schools' basketball event



There was plenty of smiles for the winning schools at the Vale's annual 5x60 basketball tournament.

THE Vale's basketball talent took part in the annual 5x60 schools tournament as 10 teams, spread across six schools, arrived at Cogan Leisure Centre in Penarth.

After the success of the last year's competition, the girls' tournament saw more entries than ever. Five teams from Cowbridge, Stanwell and St Cyres took part in a round robin group, where each team played each other once.

Every fixture saw fiercely committed, highly competitive games with the emergence of raw talent, particularly from St Cyres and Cowbridge. This talent saw these schools competing for the trophy, coming down to last game.

Cowbridge came away victorious, however, on another day it could easily have gone St Cyres' way. Both teams will advance to the regional finals in RCT.

In the boys' competition, teams from Bro Morgannwg, Stanwell, St Cyres, Cowbridge, St Richard Gwyn and Barry arrived to compete for the trophy. Stanwell dominated their group with comfortable wins against Cowbridge and St Cyres.

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In group two, Bro Morgannwg came out on top, earning good wins against Barry Comprehensive and St Richard Gwyn, setting up what was sure to be a pulsating final.

The first half saw a nip and tuck contest with Stanwell and Bro Morgannwg frequently trading baskets. However, the fitness and aggression of the boys from Bro Morgannwg saw them pull away early in the second half, never looking back as they stormed their way to the Key Stage 3 trophy.

Again, both teams will advance through to the regional finals.

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Dinas RFC win on the road

AFTER the dismal weather of the past few weeks, it was a welcome change to see the sun shining high in the sky over Dinas Powys as the team prepared for the journey along the M4 to the home of the 'Seagulls' in Porthcawl.

An unfortunate delay in departure meant the players arrived at the ground just 40 minutes ahead of the expected kick off at 2.30pm. With the players being put through their paces in the warm-up, discussions were taking place behind the scenes as to whether or not the pitch was even playable. However after much deliberation all parties agreed that the match could proceed.

With a number of regular first team players unavailable for the encounter, the Villagers

took the opportunity to provide several of the talented youth team with their debut for the senior XV.

The visitors were by far the brighter side during the first half of the match and were rewarded handsomely with four quick and unanswired tries; Dan Evans, James Smith, Gavin Cooper and Tom Chapman all crossing the whitewash.

With James Smith's second try of the game just prior to the halftime whistle, the visitors score stood at a commanding 31-0.

The second half began in much the same as the first had finished with the men from the Vale managing to score an additional three tries with tenacious flanker Morgan Williams grabbing a brace.

However, the home team showed resilience scoring two tries of their own with relative ease. Their second was of par-

ticular concern for the coaching team of Dinas Powys as the Seagulls' fly-half dissected the Villagers' defence with apparent ease from 20 metres out.

Despite the disappointment at conceding 14 points, the much needed improvement in performance compared to the games of December and early January was heartening for the large contingent of travelling supporters.

The presence and performance of debutantes Liam Driscoll and Tom Baister, to-

gether with fellow youth captain Corey Imperato, was a huge boost to the senior team and a credit to the youth team coaches who work tirelessly to ensure the club has a bright and competitive future. All three played outstandingly with passion and commitment evident in every stride.

Final score Porthcawl 14, Dinas Powys 48. Dinas Powys RFC are next in action against Tre Harris on Saturday, March 8, 2.30pm kick off on the Common. **MH**

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS

We welcome your match reports, club news and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Dinas Powys look rusty as league leaders claim win

DINAS POWYS FC were glad to be back in action against Caldicot Town, with no matches since January 15 because of waterlogged pitches, but looked somewhat rusty against their high-flying hosts.

With a stiff breeze in their favour in was the hosts that settled first and an early free kick by Simon Crook found the head of Richard Sharrat but his header was wide of the mark.

Caldicot were keeping the ball much better than Dinas and most of the attacks were coming from them.

The visitors did force a couple of corners taken by Nicky Bruce but the Caldicot defence cleared the danger.

At the other end, a thunderous free-kick by Dan Saunders clipped the top of the crossbar and over and, from a corner, Sharrat planted a powerful header towards goal but again it hit the crossbar and went over.

The best chance of the half for Dinas came from a Carlos Indjai cross which found Dimitri Fallas in space, he got a shot away but it was wide of the left upright and the half finished goal-less with Caldicot dominating but failing to convert their numerous chances.

Connor Parsons was introduced at the start of the second period in place of Indjai to try and bolster the midfield battle for Dinas and they began getting more possession. However, stand-in keeper James Bloxham had to make a good save from ex-Dinas player Matt Trotman from a free-kick.

Then came the highlight of the game as far as Dinas were concerned. Tony Herrin picked the ball up some 25 yards from goal and unleashed a superb shot into the top corner of the

net to give the visitors the lead. This only lasted a few minutes when a pass from the left evaded Bloxham, leaving Trotman a simple tap-in at the far post for 1-1.

The hosts then took the lead when Dan Saunders broke through the Dinas rearguard for a one-on-one with the keeper and he made no mistake, sliding the ball past Bloxham from 10 yards. He almost repeated this a few minutes later but a last ditch clearance off the line by James Marr kept the score down.

Dinas then rang the changes with 20 minutes remaining, bringing on Ryan Garland and Joe Briscoe for Barry King and Dimitri Fallas who had both worked hard.

Dinas thought they had equalised when, from a Nicky Bruce free kick, Garland headed towards the far post but his effort was just wide of the upright with keeper Matt Saniford beaten.

Dinas keeper James Bloxham injured his back preventing a ball going out for a corner but was okay after lengthy treatment and the game ended with Dinas having a much better second half but unable to take anything from the game.

On March 1 Dinas entertain Undy Athletic at The Murch when kick off times revert to 2.30pm.

Squad: 1 James Bloxham, 2 Nicky Bruce, 3 Danny Street, 4 Dave Penikett, 5 James Marr, 6 Tony Herrin (1), 7 Paul Dawes (c), 8 Carlos Indjai, 9 Paul Penikett, 10 Dimitri Fallas, 11 Barry King, 12 Luke Swaffield, 14 Ryan Garland, 15 Joe Briscoe, 16 Connor Parsons, 17 Jonathan Dakin.

PK

Barry seconds maintain winning run

BARRY 2nd XV welcomed the visit of Clwb Rygbi Caerdydd as they attempted to stretch their winning streak to five.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow recalled the fit-again Jordan Flynn at fly-half to partner Rhidian Mephram, and there was also a welcome return for Dave Hosking on the bench.

With the elements and the slope behind them in the first half, Barry got off to a quick start. The CRCC defence was finding it hard to handle the workrate of the Barry back row, with Miles and Goodfellow outstanding, while Flynn at stand-off utilised the ball-carrying power of Marvin Cordle and Dave Williams.

It was no surprise that Barry threatened the first score; after good drives from Adam Lee, Sion Vidal and Andy Corne, the ball was seemingly grounded for a try, only for the official to disallow it.

Undeterred, Barry soon returned to the visitors' 22, and this time good distribution from Mephram, a strong run from Vidal, and a perfectly-timed pass to

Ethan Dix saw him cross for the first try; Lee added the extras.

Clwb Rygbi attempted to counter Barry's physicality and power with some typically fluent link-up play, and they did make some inroads into the home half, but found the defence, marshalled by Lee Jones, Kyle Case, Goodfellow and Miles unrelenting.

The flow of the game was disrupted by the whistle-happy official, who was making some puzzling decisions which left both sets of players in the dark.

Neither side coped well in this part of the game, and the half drew to a close with Barry leading 7-0.

The management reminded the players of the importance of this match for the league season at the interval, and the words were still ringing in their ears when Barry stretched their lead.

Some good build up play in midfield saw Williams released, and he cut through the CRCC defence superbly, dummying the full-back before scoring under the posts; Lee added the extras.

With the game seemingly in the bag Barry took their foot off the pedal, and following the sin-binning of Andy Corne, the visitors scored two well-worked tries to reduce the deficit to 14-12. The game was back in the balance.

Barry showed great character and resilience to weather more pressure from the visitors, with all 15 men defending their line manfully.

Eventually the momentum of the game swung again, and following good work on the wing from Dix, ball was recycled for man-of-the-match John Miles to apply the finishing touch. Lee failed to add the extras.

Clwb Rygbi attempted one final push to earn themselves a draw, but their attack was snuffed out by some diligent Barry tackling, including a huge hit by Cordle on the fly-half, and the points stayed in Barry, the final score 19-12.

The 2nd XV will travel to Llandaff this weekend, while the 3rd XV visit Cardiff Quins.

Team: Lee; Dix, Cordle, Williams, Hamonda; Flynn, Mephram; Thomas, Vidal, Corne; Jones, Case; Goodfellow, Miles, Rolfe (c). Replacements: Hosking, Elsworth, White, Evans. Man-of-the-match: Miles.

KC

BRYNHILL LADIES GOLF RESULTS

JANUARY 14 - Audrey Phillips 20 points; February 1 - Linda Hewlett 24 points; February 18 - Shirley Lewis 21 points.

FIXTURE NIGHT Brynhill ladies met on February 4 to arrange their matches for the 2014 season.

Sheila Williams informed us about the rules of golf, followed by a quiz that was won by Anne Phillips and Shirley O'Donovan. Many of us will have to refer to our rule books again!

MEET FOR LUNCH

On February 18, nearly 40 ladies enjoyed lunch together after some brave souls played 10 holes.

The weather was kind although still wet underfoot, no problems for Shirley who won with 21 points.

Past captain Julie Harkin had raised money for Velindre Hospital during her year, and Pat Coghill has been collecting used stamps for the same charity.

CH



ABOVE: Carole Bumford and Shirley Lewis and BELOW: Julie Harkin and Pat Coghill.



Cowbridge under-8s shine in the sun

GLORIOUS winter sunshine provided a welcome change from the recent stormy weather and finally gave the Cowbridge under-8s the opportunity to play some rugby.

Team 1 started superbly against Whitechurch, with two quick tries, first from a determined run by James Collingridge followed by a dash to the corner by Joe Davies after good passing between him and James Lord.

Whitechurch scored but Cowbridge, clearly relishing being on the pitch, then began a purple patch running in seven unanswered tries. Henry Whitehouse, George Edgill and Henry Davies all got their names on the scoresheet, and demonstrated solid team work and passing skills in the build up to the tries, along with Joe Funtek and Ollie Gale.

James C and Joe D got their second tries, both as a consequence of consummate running. James Lord expertly capitalised on a mistake by the opposition to score in the corner, quickly followed by a typically forceful run from Ned Rees.

Whitechurch increased their pressure in the last quarter and scored four tries, but it was a convincing 9-5 victory for Cowbridge.

The second match saw Whitechurch open the scoring against the run of play but a set move crisply executed saw Sam Sheppard feed Osian Bruce on a scissors for a try in the left corner.

A mazy run from Mabli Davies led to Ben Stephenson scorching into the corner and first Osian and then Harry New added to their tallies from the earlier match.

Whitechurch, though, did not give up and scored further tries before Sam S jinked over short range from dummy half and Will Brennan went most of the length of the field to score a fine individual try.

Sam Jackson then ran with typical strength up the middle, Joe Arentsen took the offload and put Osian into the space to score the fifth try.

Whitechurch replied with two further tries but it was left to man of the day Harry New to cap the win with a long range solo try. Final score 8-6.

The encounter with Llanharan was far more keenly contested. Ned Rees opened the scoring after a period of sustained pressure, but Llanharan quickly responded.

However, Cowbridge were able to keep their noses just ahead throughout the match, firstly thanks to a push to the corner by Ioan Phillips.

Henry W sliced through the defence to score and another excellent pick up by James Lord led to a well-deserved try. Henry W concluded the scoring, ensuring another victory, much to the delight of the team.

A late try deep into added time at the end of a pulsating encounter broke Cowbridge hearts on Valentines weekend and saw Llanharan pip them at the post, 9-8.

The game had been end to end with the power game of the visitors contrasting with the width, variety and interplay of the Cowbridge boys. Llanharan opened the scoring before a five play passing sequence saw Osian Bruce finish in the corner.

Harry New showed his pace to score a first half hat trick of tries but each was matched by powerful Llanharan running through the middle.

The second half opened in similar fashion with Osian scoring twice after fine distribution from Sam Sheppard and Charlie Berkley-Smith and then Harry adding another with lung bursting sprints up the touch-line.

Sam S scored the last try, but even great tagging from Will Martin and Jacob Robson though could not keep Llanharan at bay and they finished the match a try ahead.

PS

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GRADING SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS



ON Sunday, February 16, the Cadroxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do held their first colour belt grading of the year.

The grading took place at the Victoria Park Community Centre. The grading saw 24 students from as young as five years of age sitting the exam.

The grading was conducted by Master Ron Thomas, 8th Dan, and was a success with all 24 students passing their grading, four of which achieved top grade 'A' passes - Kurtis James, Jessica Blackley, Cian Allen and Joel Wels.

Joel was also the deserved winner of the club's grading shield. Successful candidates were:-

Promoted to 8th kupa Yellow belt: Courtney James & Leo Cummins. Promoted to 7th kupa Green stripe: Ethan Andrus, Cameron Evans, Thea Cunningham, & Maddison Allen.

Promoted to 6th kupa Green belt: Alexandra Poulton, Lucia Cunningham, Brook Baker, Kelly Quigley & Alex Cunningham.

Promoted to 5th kupa Blue Stripe: Kurtis James, Martin James, Katie Watkins, Jessica Blackley, Ellie-Ann Osborne. Promoted to 4th kupa Blue belt: Mason Blackley.

Promoted to 3rd kupa Red Stripe: Joel Wels & Evan Baron. Promoted to 2nd kupa Red belt: Jake Quigley, Daniel Quigley, Cian Allen, Demi Baker & Cody Jacobsen.

Pictured with their instructors and grading examiners are the successful candidates.

For further information, please phone (01446) 406372 or visit cadroxtontaekwondo.weebly.com.

RT

High-speed chef wins BARC award



Champions all: from left, Anthony Armelin, Jordan King, the British Formula Three Champion and Marc Mercer, Classic Formula Ford 2000 Champion.

AT a lavish ceremony hosted by the British Automobile Racing Club at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Warwickshire, on February 15, Cowbridge resident Anthony Armelin, proprietor of the Beech Tree Inn at Culverhouse Cross, was presented with his champion's trophy for winning the Classic Formula Ford 2000 Championship, Class B, for historic racing cars.

Anthony, a single-seater champion in the mid 1980s, and former instructor at the Silverstone Racing School, was

back on track last season for the first time in 28 years, racking up five wins along the way.

"I was truly humbled to be in such esteemed company. The BARC is the oldest motor racing club in the UK and has honoured so many great champions in the past, including Sir Stirling Moss, Sir Jackie Stewart and Nigel Mansell," he said.

Anthony will be competing with the Historic Sports Car Club this year and can be seen in action at some of the UK's most iconic circuits, including Silverstone, Brands Hatch and Oulton Park in Cheshire. The season opener is at Donington Park on April 6.

TRAINER EVAN IS 'STILL BELIEVING'!

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams has saddled more winners at Ludlow than any other trainer in the past five years.

Last Wednesday, his six-year-old *Still Believing* landed the Shukers Land Rover Handicap Hurdle to bring his total number of wins at the Welsh border track to 52.

He is way ahead of fellow Welshman Nigel Twiston-Davies, who has the second most number of wins.

A double on the day brought Nigel's total of wins to 18. *Still Believing*, partnered by Conor Ring, scored by one and a half lengths from the top weighted *Broadway Sympathy*.

TUDOR REIGNS

Cowbridge's James Tudor was in good form at the Cambridge University Draghounds Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Cottenham

BRIAN LEE

Cefn impress with win

ON a fine day for running rugby, both Cefn Club and Pontyclun put on a very entertaining match, with Pontyclun's much heavier and more experienced pack also contributing in open play.

Cefn blooded several new up and coming talents, including George Morgan who was solid at full back and showed a lot of pace when given space to run.

It was great to see Darris Lyddon, back to full fitness, showing his versatility, and his terrific ball handling skills from the lock position, alongside the experienced Gareth Raikes.

Cefn's young side ran out 51-10 winners, playing some scintillating rugby. Adam Lloyd was always a livewire at

scrum half, while young Tom Matthews shone alongside more experienced players such as Matt Diamond, Chris Bruno and Rob Matthews.

Pick of the scores were a fine individual effort from dynamic Rob

Curl following some excellent build up work with fine interpassing between forwards and backs, and the highlight of the day saw prop Bruno ending another fine build-up for a nice try under the posts.

SS

Vale table tennis academy launched

A new sports opportunity has been launched in the Vale, the Vale Table Tennis Academy.

George Evans, the former Welsh international table tennis player, has started a weekly junior session.

Funding of £600 to support the project came from the Vale of Glamorgan Community Chest Fund. Session will be run every Wednesday at Cwm Talwg Community Centre from 6.30pm to 8pm.

George Evans said: "We are delighted to offer children the unique opportunity to learn and develop their table tennis skills in a fun and safe environment."

New members of all ages and abilities welcome, for more information contact George Evans on 01446 711297 or email Tanglewoodfive@aol.com.

Barry RFC see league points squandered after frustrating draw

LLANDAFF were the visitors to the Reservoir Field on Saturday where the weather gods were kind; it may have been windy, but no rain fell throughout the proceedings.

The visitors elected to play against the elements in the first session. Barry were first to disturb the scorers, via a well-struck penalty goal by Scott; a just reward for good early forward pressure.

It soon became clear that the Barry pack had the measure of their opponents and established a stranglehold on the set scrums right from the start. Unfortunately, not the same could be said of the line-outs, which were more evenly contested.

The home team's ascendancy in the tight scrummages was beginning to tell on the Llandaff half-backs. Following a heel against the head near the visitors' try line, Buckland swept over almost unopposed. Scott did his usual

Halfpenny impersonation in landing the conversion.

An enforced substitution by Barry saw Hadfield return to the fold minutes before the interval. However, it was the away team who managed to reduce the deficit with a well-struck penalty to make the halftime score 10-3 at the break.

If Barry were to survive the second period against a slight breeze and up the slope they would need to play controlled and intelligent rugby.

It was soon apparent that the former was well within their capability, but the latter was absent at crucial junctures in the second 40 minutes.

With the Jones boys and Hadfield in the van, Barry began brightly and earned a chance for Scott to extend the lead; he did not disappoint.

A harsh yellow card to a home forward did little to dim their enthusiasm. Unfortunately for the visitors, the easy ensuing penalty was missed.

It was during the next period of

play that Barry lost the plot with some very naive defending. The home team were attacking on the right flank and all the backs were positioned on that side.

This released acres of unguarded ground on the left. Llandaff gained possession immediately spreading the ball into the empty spaces. They used their unmarked backs to engineer a good try near the posts.

Running up to full time, good work by Evans and Hollister could not prevent Llandaff squaring the scores with a late penalty kick.

This was an opportunity for a full haul of league points squandered.

Barry: Ryan, Adams, Buckland, Provis, Busitil, E Scott, Lee, H Jones (captain), Poole, O'Sullivan, Tanner, G Jones, Hollister, Evans, Lundy. Reps: Hadfield, Oaten, T Scott, Gallivan.

Next Saturday the visitors to the Reservoir Field are Llandaff North.

CO

Tournament win for netballers

LLANTWIT MAJOR school's year 9 netball team have won the Vale Tournament for the third year running.

They beat St. Richard Gwyn 17-1 and Stanwell 13-0 to set up a final match against Cowbridge who had also won both of their previous games.

A close final match was expected. Llantwit stormed into a 7-2 lead before Cowbridge fought back and at halftime Llantwit held on to a narrow 7-5 lead.

The second half was close with Cowbridge, initially levelling the scores but then Llantwit upped their game and finished the winners, 13-11.

Next up was Cardiff and Vale Schools preliminary rounds held at Cardiff University, Talybont. As Llantwit were runners up last year they were one of the four seeded teams, hoping to make it through to the county finals for the third year running.

Llantwit made light work of their matches



The tournament-winning Llantwit Major netballers.

winning all three convincingly. Llantwit beat Eastern High 14-2, Radyr 17-3 and St Tello's 15-4.

They now will go on to meet Cardiff High, Corpus Christi and Howells in the finals and hope to go one better than last year.

Good luck girls, you deserve it.

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS

We welcome your match reports, club news and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Roller skating club's success

GLAMORGAN Artistic Roller skating club recently competed at their first competition of the year, held in Newbury by West Berkshire Roller Skating Club.

All the skaters skated very well in a variety of events including duo, solo and team skates and the club came away with four bronze medals and four silver medals.

This is a fantastic result for Welsh artistic roller skating! If anyone is interested in joining the club, please visit our Facebook page or telephone our secretary, Anne Marie Escott, on 07517854453.

AG

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Wales and the Six Nations

THE TRIPLE CHAMPIONSHIP BID IS ON AGAIN...



UNDER THREAT WELSH PLAYERS AVOID THEIR WATERLOO AND PUT FRANCE TO THE SWORD Dragon finds its fire again to set up Twickenham showdown

Pictures by Huw Evans Agency.



LEFT: George North swoops for the first Welsh try, as French defenders make a hash of things almost on their own line.

BOTTOM LEFT: The revitalised Welsh pack were in dominant mood, led by their skipper, Sam Warburton.



RIGHT: The Old Guard spearhead of a front five that paved the way for victory, to keep the championship defence on track.



THE message for Welsh players before the championship-defining Six Nations match with France at the Millennium Stadium, on Friday evening, was unequivocal:

"They need to start thinking – if I don't play well, it could be the last time I play for Wales" – head coach Warren Gatland said bluntly.

The forthright former All Black forward revealed: "I've had conversations with a couple of players and told them that their performance (in the lack-lustre 26-3 loss to Ireland two weeks earlier) wasn't good enough..."

"Hopefully, the players will respond, because it is important for us – not just in terms of this competition – but for a lot of those players to start thinking about the next 12 months and the Rugby World Cup."

A past master of applied psychology, Gatland's deliberately-chosen words were designed not only to ratchet up pressure on a team still in recovery from the Dublin horror show, but to raise the stakes on a clash with the unbeaten French that had more than usual significance – if the lurking threat to Gatland's long-term recovery plan for Welsh rugby was not to be nipped in the bud.

Hence players who had so badly underperformed against the Irish were left in no doubt that Friday's set-piece battle with France could well be their rugby Waterloo, in terms of an international future with Wales, if that insipid display was repeated.

Which no doubt explained the energy and urgency they showed from the outset, charging full tilt into the startled enemy ranks and going 11 points up within 12 minutes through two penalties by Leigh Halfpenny (one from all of 45 metres); which sand-

wich a try by wing-turned-centre George North, who followed up the full back's clever chip ahead and took advantage of a defensive faux pas to touch down and set the stadium alight.

Halfpenny for once failed to convert, and within minutes, France thought they too had scored – but the try was disallowed for a knock-on by Irish referee Alain Rolland (who had controversially sent off Wales' skipper Sam Warburton in the 2011 World Cup semi-final).

Lively scrum half Jean-Marc Doussain reduced the arrears with a penalty at the scrum – though there was to be no repeat of the torrid time a strangely lethargic Welsh pack endured in Dublin – as the rejuvenated front row of man-of-the-match Gethin Jenkins, Richard Hibbard and Adam Jones, laid down a marker for what was to prove a Herculean effort up front that would spread through the ranks – and to which their shaken opponents ultimately had no answer.

The trio were powered in the second row engine room by dynamic new pairing Luke Charteris and the newly-drafted in Jake Ball, whose impressive first start performance amply demonstrated Wales' current strength in depth.

The front five's forceful efforts won a penalty at the scrum, again eagerly snapped up by Halfpenny, and when Doussain failed with a second penalty attempt, his side's kicking duties were taken over by outside half Jules Plisson – who narrowed the gap to 14-6 when this time Wales were penalised at

the set-piece engagements, which were now patently testing referee Rolland's patience.

However, the 73,000-plus supporters who had braved a dank February evening in Cardiff, were clearly revelling in a galvanised, wholly-committed Welsh display rebuilt on a familiar iron-clad defence, but with added pace and intensity – due in no small measure to the backs thriving on a quick service from nippy new cap Rhys Webb at scrum half.

In this regard, media reports that the usual incumbent, Mike Phillips, had been 'dropped' from the team as a punishment following the Irish drubbing were somewhat misplaced, given that nowadays the 'team' comprises 23 – as underlined when he came on as a replacement in the second half.

(No doubt, though, Gatland saw it as a timely incentive for that famously-competitive individual to regain his starting slot!)

With the Welsh scrum and line-out holding firm, and the French eight unable to gain the upper hand there or at the breakdown, where Warburton was having one of his best games for Wales, in tandem with Dan Lydiate and Taulupe Faletau, the visitors' efforts became ever more desperate. Two more penalty infringements saw Halfpenny take the score to 20-6 at halftime.

The changeover brought no change in French fortunes, with another missed penalty and attacks foundering on poor handling and an unyielding defence, with every Welsh hand at the pump – exemplified by outside half Rhys Priestland's brave try-saving tack-

le on man mountain centre, Mathieu Bastareaud. Meanwhile, referee Rolland finally ran out of patience with repeated problems in setting the scrum and dispatched props Jenkins and Nicolas Mas to the sin bin – to be followed soon afterwards by No 8 Louis Pacamoles, as French frustration boiled over into indiscipline.

Halfpenny for once misjudged his penalty attempt but minutes later, Wales put the seal on a conclusive victory when Jamie Roberts carved his way imperiously through scattered defenders almost to the posts – with skipper Warburton fittingly on hand to complete the movement, stretching out at arm's length to place the ball on the try line.

Halfpenny slotted over the simple conversion to make the score 27-6 and with 10 minutes to full time, all remaining Welsh replacements came on, including at last, the ever-patient James Hook.

There was time for France to summon one last desperate attempt to storm the Welsh barricades, but to no avail. The defence, as ever, held firm and as the ball bobbed out of play, the final whistle sounded on a remarkable recovery that, while not perfect, sees buoyant Wales heading over the Severn in two weeks' time for a momentous showdown that could have a decisive bearing on the destination of the championship trophy.

England, with ambitions of their own, having narrowly disposed of Wales' conquerors Ireland by 13-10, will not be lacking in confidence in front of a packed-out Twickenham, and will be on a revenge mission after being denied last year's Six Nations title with a humiliating 30-3 defeat in Cardiff.

It promises to be yet another epic battle royal with that extra needle!

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John